

VOLUME II

ISSUE # 6

\$1.25



FEATURING:

RANSOM



Ransom

This band is too hot to handle! A group like Ratt could'nt afford to have Ransom open for them. You see, Ratt can't have the opening band blow 'em off the stage.

I first heard this band on my Walkman as I was riding the bus to work. I was totally amazed. My mouth fell open and I wanted to scream! **Rock For The Rock** was that first song I heard. I stayed in a moment of astonishment and speechless joy all day. The lead guitar intro lifted me straight up. It sounds like it was put through chorus and wah-wah effect with very high notes.

Not Late For Love was the next song I heard, which started out like a beautiful UFO song and screamed and ripped its way into Ransom style.

This band seems to borrow the very best from The Scorpions and UFO, incorporating these influences into their own style. For me, this is a very high compliment. I mean it. These guys rip!

The songs I heard were recorded off the New Creation radio show, courtesy Bob Felberg. I'm sure this band receives as much, if not more, requests as Stryper, or anybody. I sure would blitz my local radio station with calls if they had Ransom in stock.

This demo, which was played on the air, should get this band a contract. I feel tempted to take out a loan for \$100,000 and start my own label, so I can sign these guys. But, I must put my flesh under subjection, plus I couldn't get the loan. These songs are the best I've heard off a demo since Trytan.

Now that you've heard my opinion of the band, here's some facts: Ransom practices in a professional rehearsal studio four nights a week; the other weeknight is spent on vocal practice at Dan's house; Turn Records, who works with The Heartbeats, was impressed with Ransom and gave them a free recording session in Pure Metal's new Grand Slam studios; Pure Metal has them appearing on their **Heavy Righteous Metal** compilation album; they have three Marshall stacks on one side and three Laney stacks on the other; they all play Jackson guitars; the drummer plays a new 13-piece Yamaha Studio Sessions kit with about 20 cymbals; plus they get decent radio airplay off their demos on the college radio stations that cover the tri-state area of Connecticut, New York and Jersey.

Lead singer Dan Mariano introduces the band:

"Our bass player, J.J. Meceli, is totally off-the-wall. He's 22 and a one-of-a-kind character. He's always pickin' up rare pins or buttons and always bringin' toys to practice. He's just a nut, a crazy nut. He's a total space. He keeps our band goin', basically. When

we get down, John Meceli is really there, with a smile and a laugh. He's the Michael Anthony of Ransom. He looks and acts like him. He is my partner in the commercial, Bon Jovi/Top 40-style influence to our band.

"Franky DiCostanzo, our guitarist, is quiet, shy and 21. He kinda keeps to himself. He's an excellent guitar player. He's very schooled and very trained. He takes a lot of time on his writing and on his leads. He really sits back and thinks about what he's gonna do. He's very technical with the effects he uses. He will never just jump into things. He's into Steve Vai and a Van Halen-type of sound.

"Greg Kurtzman, our other guitarist, is off-the-wall. He can play anything that you ever stick in front of him, from Yngwie, Randy Rhoads to a Polka march or Western movie theme. He's gotta be my biggest blessing in this band. He's only 18 years old. The kid is absolutely phenomenal. He's also got a great attitude. He's just a total goof. He gets into Randy Rhoads and Steve Vai. (He did all the licks on the tape I heard and raved about--ed.)

"Our drummer, John Fowler, aka 'Hollywood,' is a total glam freak. He's 21 and really funny. He's got the Poison image, but his idol is Neil Peart. This kid is just as solid as they come. He's right on time. As a matter of fact, when we write a song, we usually get the whole song finished and on tape and just have John come in for a couple hours and the song is complete. I swear the kid's got a memory bank. You can tell him to pick out anything, from a movie to a song by Tchaikovsky, and he'll pull it out of somewhere and blow out this massive thing that he knows by heart. It's incredible. He's also a real space shot. He's a Rush influence into our band--a real tight drummer--yet a glam freak. He throws in all the punches and tricks, like spinning sticks and everything.

"Me? It's hard for me to find an identity in this band. I've been so busy acting as a manager and producer, just trying to get this show on the road. My father's a minister and, it's funny, I've taken on this image of a pastor almost. It's like, everytime we have something to say, it's me giving the scriptures, preaching and trying to lead people to Christ. I've since taken on a more mature attitude and a more serious outlook on this band.

"It's really funny. I was a lead singer before and was just wild and crazy. It was, like, 'Find as many women as I can have, do the most drugs and party all the time,' ya know? When we came to God, it's just been a 360 degree turnaround. It's matured me a lot. It's straightened out my goals and everything else. So, I've really been letting the guys have a great time doing what they do and I feel like the father, kind of. I'm

25 and older than all of 'em and played out more and been on the road. They kind of take my guidance and leadership in the musical sense.

"All of 'em are brand new Christians. I've been growing with them and they've been growing with me since day one...you know, bringin' them to church and gettin' 'em all saved, helpin' 'em get on-fire for God and what we're doing in this band. I'm kind of maturing as a father, a band leader and as a friend also. It's really been tough for me to find my own identity kind of. I play lots of instruments: drums, piano, guitar and trumpet. None on stage right now, but we're working on a double drum solo."

Ransom was called Rage Of Angels up until a short time ago. "We started working with Joey Powers, our producer, from Star Song. The first thing he said to us was he didn't like the name, because it wasn't grabby enough. It wasn't catchy.

"When you said, 'Rage Of Angels,' you had to explain it to 'em. If you were in a club and someone shouted 'What's the name of your band?' "'Page Of Angels.'"

"You almost had to spell it out for 'em. Joey said he wanted one of those one-word names. So, Ransom really fit. It was tough trying to find another name. We thought Rage Of Angels was it. The band is still in love with the name. They want to keep it really bad.

"I don't know, though. We try to be as commercial as possible. We're, like, in the Van Halen/Dokken vein. Some of our stuff gets a little heavier, but we wanted that commercial name. Rage Of Angels was almost too heavy for us. It gave it that Iron Maiden/Queensryche feel. We weren't looking for that. Our band scripture is Matthew 20:28."

Ransom is made up of members from two of Dan's former bands: Sweet Cheater and Havak. "We were very big bands before we broke up. These guys were the best members of each band. When Sweet Cheater broke up, I got ahold of these guys and said, 'Hey, let's form a super kind of 'hero' band.' I said I wanted it to be a Christian metal band and they were all up for it.

"They said, 'Hey, that sounds pretty neat. Why don't you tell us a little bit more about it?' Before we knew it, we had this great combination goin'. I had been working with Greg for six months beforehand and had already written about six or seven songs together.

"Anyway, when we first got together, everyone was happy because we were in a band. 'Yeah cool. Dan's got another band together,'-type thing. Little by little the frustrations started comin' in. Some of the guys in the band, including myself, were still partyin'.

"I would find myself in a bar with friends goin', 'Yeah. We have this great Christian

metal band.' The band would be walking out and start to look at each other and go, 'What are we doin'?!?' Here we were trying to uphold the Lord's name and then acting like everybody else in the world.

"It took a lot of transformations, ya know? I really settled down and straightened my life completely. Greg straightened his life out completely and then we started cleaning house. We didn't have Franky and J.J. in the band at first. We had two other players from the two ex-bands. They just were not cutting it. They just didn't wanna conform and be Christians. It was really sad, but we just cut 'em right out. We cleaned house.

"We realized that we were all screwin' up and still hangin' out at the same bars and being crazy. Greg and I cut back and said, 'Listen. We're gonna have to clean house guys. This is the way it is.' We wrote up a contract for this band that said, 'Everybody in this band has to be born-again, #1. Everybody in this band can't party, can't do this, can't do that.' Kinda put a restriction on it, ya know? It was really kinda tough, 'cause all of us had lived together for the last six years and been on the road as bands. We all had known each other's habits, nasty as they were. They were like, 'Who are you to tell me what I can do and what I can't do?'

"We had really fought that for a long time. It was really tough. If I caught my guitar player or my drummer out partyin' with friends or with girls or whatever, I'd blow up and say, 'Listen. This is not cool. One more shot like this and you're out of the band.'

"We started giving chances to everybody. I almost felt bad, because I was like, nobody to judge anybody...But, I knew where this band really had to go and I knew what direction it was goin'. We really had to put our foot down. We learned to become brothers and friends.

"Within the last few months, we really started reading our Bibles and having Bible studies and prayin' before our practices. Realizing that, 'Hey! We're a team now! The other bands that we were in and the other friends that we had are not our enemies, but they're, like, our prey. Like, we have to go out there and get them now.

"Right now we're really pulling together as a team, which makes all of us feel so happy. Before, we were just at each others' throat, ya know? 'Who's gonna write the songs? Big deal... Anybody can write a Christian song or a nice pretty song about God.' As soon as we got into the Word and started reading, it changed the feeling of the whole band. We'll blow off the first 15 minutes of practice just goin', 'Oh! Did you read John the other day?' We can't put the Word down. What I love about it the most is: I've lived in this Christian atmosphere my whole

Ransom cont'd on page 5

ALTAR BOYS
BLOOD GOOD

REZ

MAD AT the world

CORNERSTONE '87

FESTIVAL



DARREL
MANSFIELD

DA

Wow

not only
all these
hands, but
seminars
to deepen
your under-
standing of
Jesus!



the
LEAD
(THE LEAD)

ChiCago Land
LAKE county
FAirGrounds

july 1-2-3-4

FOR MORE INFO ON TICKET PRICES (SINGLE, GROUP, OR FAMILIES) AND DISCOUNTS
ON EARLY REGISTRATION, FILL OUT THIS COUPON:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MAIL TO: CORNERSTONE '87, 4707 N. MALDEN, CHICAGO, IL 60640

life and I've never felt as much a Christian as I do right now.

"It was a brotherly feeling that we've never experienced between friends. There were nights where we've actually cried. It's been like, 'Man. This is, like, the best feeling in the whole world. I've played in a million bands and I've partied with you guys a million times, but I've never felt better in my life than I do now.'"

**Are you still friends with the two guys you had to boot?

"Yeah, we are. We've been really good friends with 'em. We haven't really kept in touch. It was kind of an awkward situation. We still see them around town and they come to our practice and listen to us and they like us. I guess the best thing out of the deal is they're into Christian rock right now. We have 'em listening to as much as they possibly can."

**How did you acquire your equipment?

"We were blessed by the guitar player's mother. When I started the band, Greg wasn't Christian. I gave him my idea and he said, 'Listen. What I'll do is I'll help you write some songs. You need a guitar player, so I'll help you put down some stuff. If it goes further than that, we'll get together and we'll work.'"

"He was helping me write the songs and hearing the words I was singing. He was blessed. He was saved within a couple weeks. So, we had this great Christian brotherly thing going and we had some killer tunes worked out. His mother saw what happened and was totally impressed with that and went out and purchased us a beautiful studio for 800 bucks. Then, on top of that, we just said, 'We need equipment,' and she went out and bought all brand new stacks. He already had his guitar. He builds his own and has a couple of them copyrighted. They're just phenomenal...really nice guitars. I think he's working on a 12-string double-necked electric right now.

"Franky already had all his Laney stacks. What they're both doing right now is building on their effects racks. John's drums have a massive riser with a full ramp system comin' off each side. The riser itself is fully mirrored with jagged edges that come out to points underneath. We have a full cage, like the Stryper cage, on order right now.

"The way things have been working with this band, it's been Jesus 100%. There's just no other way I can explain it. God has opened every single door for us that has ever had to be opened. From having jackets and posters made to radio airplay, Bob being there to help, and everything.

"I've been in a million bands and have never seen a band have so much publicity, so much

everything. All I can say and what I keep stressing to the guys is, 'Get on your knees. Pray. Thank the Lord for everything that's been happening.'

"The whole band is so innocent in what we're sayin' and doin', that we're giving a message without really noticing it. We have people like Blue Oyster Cult, Richie Blackmore, Lita Ford, Average White Band and people from all over the world at our studio everyday. We get to meet all these people every night.

"Our studio owner has, like, totally flipped out. He can't believe that I'm doing this, because Sweet Cheater was, like, another Motley Crue. Just girls, girls, girls, drugs, drinkin', the whole nine yards. We were just like one of the wackiest bands out of Connecticut. He just cannot believe that we have a Christian band.

"He is just totally selling us 100%. He's pushing us on every producer, every performer, everybody who comes into the studio. He brings 'em down, let's 'em listen to us, let's 'em hear our message, let's us even speak to 'em.

"Hey. These guys are from Ransom. I want you to meet 'em.'

"Oh. What are they doin'?"

"They're playing Christian metal and they're good. They're professionals.'

"They're like, 'Oh really? Tell me about it.'

"We just really get a chance to open up and witness to these bands that come in after us. We have some of the Major acts down here from Metal Blade too, like Slayer and stuff. They all come down and rehearse at our studio. A lot of 'em wait until after we come out of the studio or they'll have their practice and then it'll be ours. We have our own locker. We'll pull our equipment out and set it up. They'll wait and hear what we sound like.

"A lot of these kids'll sit through our whole practice--the full three hours--totally into what we're doin'. We had a lot of these kids, total death Headbangers, come up to us afterwards and go, 'Man! Your songs are really uplifting. I listen to 'em and they put a smile on my face!' It's like, 'Cool man!' I get totally blown away by it."

Ransom can use our prayers about a record contract. They almost need a major secular label to pick them up. They live in an area where a lot of pros, Ted Nugent, Alice Cooper, Kiss, Pat Travers and such, live in summer homes. This instills in them the attitude to pursue excellence. "To just go the extra mile and do everything with perfection."

They are wanting 25 to \$30,000 for their first album's production, instead of the usual \$10K an independent label will give to a new band.

"We don't want to hold back any of the stops. We want to get excellent management. This would

get us publicity and a tour going. Our audience right now is just really our hometown people. We haven't played live. People in the tri-state area are hearing us on the radio or on tapes we've given out. I think we belong on the road. This band is just a road band.

"We have a message to tell and there's just not gonna be any stoppin' it. It's so hard to cage this band in Conneticut with the fire that we have in us right now. The flame is just getting bigger. It's feeling really bad, because we just wanna burst out and go, like, 'God loves you, you know that? Wake up!!' It's so tough.

"When you get to that point, you have to wake up a second and go, 'Whoa. This is a business, you know? There's gotta be an avenue to get out to where we wanna be. That's really where we find ourselves right now.

"I wish we could be out on the road, worldwide if possible. I really don't care if we put out an album and it doesn't sell. I mean, if we can get a tour out of the deal and just keep preaching God's Word in all the nations...I would just love that.

"We could pound it into our friends forever. I really don't think they're gonna wake up until they see us somewhere else. We're opening for Bloodgood here June 18th.

"A message we tell everybody is: 'When you stand for nothing, you'll fall for anything.' Another message we hit 'em with is: 'We know some people here say they have the best stuff in town. We'll tell you that we've got the best stuff in the world...and we'd be glad to turn you on to it.'

"We have two sections in between our nine songs where we have speaking parts. We really lay it on the line. I mean, actually we stuff it down their throats. I really wish we weren't playing in front of our own crowd first. I wish we were playing somewhere else, like Long Island, where our friends weren't there...Just to really jam it into somebody else, come back with a fire in us--where we know we can do it and knock our town over, you know?

"Our live performances are absolutely crazy. We have all four-part and five-part vocal harmonies. We do splits and the whole nine yards. We're just as crazy as a regular metal band. I mean, our guitar players wanted to bring in trampolines and mix them in with the show. Every single day they're thinkin' of something new."

Let's pray about Ransom getting on the road. Meanwhile, we can hear **Rock For The Rock** when **Heavy Righteous Metal** comes out. It's a rocker, but this version of it doesn't show the best of the band. The band isn't too happy with the way it came out. It was recently done in Pure Metal's studio.

"I'm not making excuses for it, it still rocks. The band is really talented and technical-oriented. We get in the studio and it might take us five months or a year to record one album. We want it to sound bigger than Van Halen or any other band out there.

"We really didn't have that time. We had, like, two days to do this whole thing. We had one day for the instruments and one day for the vocals. That's not really the way we work. That's what we ended up with."

If you'd like to write Ransom and encourage them or get ordering info for t-shirts and bumper stickers, write Ransom @ 5 Shepherd St, Norwalk CT 06850. The Ransom hotline is (203) 846-3380.

Metal Tracks

Stryken has recently had the overwhelming joy of seeing several people come to the Lord via some phone calls made to their office.

Drummer Joey Knight says, "Hey! If you need to talk, call us up." (512) 259-4824. "We love you and we care about you. We're here for you."

Stryken recently played a warmup gig here in Austin before they went out to Pheonix for a couple of shows, where they were treated like royalty (ie. limos and all)!

Dale and Steve started off the show outside the theater lobby, wailing with their wireless guitars. Once they both finished reminding each other which note they were gonna start on, they rushed down the aisle and hopped on the stage.

They put on a good show and showed their strength by overcoming a bass cabinet malfunction halfway through the show. Joey Knight took the responsibility of entertaining the crowd while crew fixed the amp...and succeeded.

Arkangel news! Kemper Crabb says that Arkangel, his former group, is going to release a compact disc and cassette only re-issue of the classic **Warrior** album. It will possibly have new songs added to it!

Radio Halo, his current group, will finally be releasing their debut album. Both this and the Arkangel re-issue should happen late this summer. Arkangel will probably be released on Joyeuse Garde Records and Radio Halo will be out on Whirld Records.

Kemper also informs us that **Jimmy Hotz** is currently an independent producer in L.A. And we thought he was couped up in an observatory somewhere, listening to his "Space Rock" and eating trail mix...

Metal Tracks continued throughout this issue.



Tempest

Tempest is a hot new band that has just been signed by Pure Metal. Get this, they sent Gavin Morkel a demo of their's, called **In His Name**, and were going to enter it into the Pure Metal Demo Challenge. Apparantly it was so good that Pure Metal finally concluded, "Forget the demo Challenge! We'll put you on the **Heavy Righteous Metal** compilation album and sign you to a full-length album contract."

That's what they've done. You'll read about the story later on. But first, let me introduce the band: On bass guitar is 17 year old Jr. Rowe; on drums, 20 year old Duane Monk; on lead vocals and guitars and weighing in at 19 years old is Mick Rowe; on rhythm and lead guitarist, age ?, ?. (Could this be you? Tempest is currently recruiting a guitarist)

Before things get carried away, let me clear the air about something that may be confusing some of you radical Christian headbangers that are crafty collectors of Christian metal: This is not the Tempest that released a critically-acclaimed tape called **Annihilation of the Wicked** last year. They were probably the first Christian thrash that was even slightly heard of in the Christian rock scene. This Tempest was fronted by bassman Warren Harris, who is not actively making music with Tempest anymore. They've since broken up. With this cleared up, these three guys had the chance to use the name they had come up with. Heaven's Metal is making efforts to hook up with Mr. Harris for a future interview. Hey, pray for it!

Now let's get on to the Tempest at hand. "The band started out as just me," says founder Mick Rowe. "The 'band' was called **Travail**. I went into the studio and did a two-song demo."

He did all the instruments himself and shopped it around. "I found out it wasn't really top-quality." One of the reasons, I'm sure, he started putting together a band.

"My brother always liked the tape and wanted to play in the band, but, since he was my brother, I didn't want him. I finally auditioned him and he sounded pretty good. We've gone through two or three drummers and a different rhythm guitarist before Duane joined in September of '86. That's when the band finally started.

"We were together three weeks and recorded our first demo album as Travail--**Heavenly Metal**. We weren't living right for God at the time, though. I thought I was a Christian. I believed in speaking in tongues and the whole bit, but I wasn't living a Christian life. It just wasn't right. We went through travail. We tried so hard, you know: Christian lyrics and music we thought was good, but there wasn't an anointed band there.

"We shopped this demo everywhere: from Star Song to Patmos. We concluded that things weren't right.

"I was talking to my wife in early December and we said, 'Let's start something new.' We rededicated our lives and made sure everything was cool between us and God. We said, 'We've gotta do something new. It can't be the same band and it can't have the same name.' I started looking through a concordance and found tempest. I wanted something that was scriptural and Tempest was it. My wife didn't like it at first. She said, 'No way. Be creative,' but it still stuck with me.

"As soon as I stuck with Tempest, I talked with a Christian engineer named Greg Hitchcock. He had a little four-track. He said, 'I'll get you something good for about \$10 an hour. So we went with that and we did a six-song demo called 'Tempest -- **In His Name**.'

"This was December 1st. I prayed before every song and went through the Bible and made sure that God wanted me to put each part into a song.

"Because of the change in our spiritual lives, it all changed. We became full-fledge Christians and went out and witnessed. We started to play places and after that it happened: We started gettin' big-headed and started falling away from God. My wife would say, 'Guys...to be a Christian band, you've got to do this and this,' and we said, 'No way, man. The music's great.' So everything went down again. My wife is always right. I can't deny it." At this point a cheer from Mick's wife, Tracy, is heard in the background.

Tempest cont'd on page 8

"We rededicated our lives and said, 'If God wants me in a band, He'll put me in a band. If not, just leave it alone. I won't play anymore. This is it. Once and for all. It's time to be a witnessing tool and start witnessing for Christ. To get right with God and not be ashamed.'"

"So, we moved to Jasper (Indiana) and Mr. Gavin Morkel gives me a call and says, 'We want you to do a song on the compilation album.'"

Since then Pure Metal has agreed to fly them to New Jersey's Grand Slam Studios (where Bon Jovi's done some work) to record the full-length album.

"We've already gone into the studio and recorded **Metal Mission**, which is gonna be on **Heavy Righteous Metal**. It all came together. We were all 'Jesus is on top,' and that's what happened.

"We started reading the Bible and found out that, as long as you're right with God, He's gonna make sure everything is alright with you. He's gonna make sure you've got food to eat, a place to stay, you know, friends, fellowship with Christ, everything.

"Right now that's our main goal: to see everyone else like that too. We're not like we used to be. We used to be a rock band and use...just because we knew we were Christians...to use it as a gimmick. Honestly, that is the way it started out. The last six months, since we turned it over to God, Jesus has said, 'Bam! Here you go.' My songs get better every time. I put more Word into 'em. I put more work into 'em. All I can say is, 'Jesus takes care of everything.' It's like Jesus is the rock star, who can have a personal relationship with, and know everything about, every one of His bands. Nobody else can do that. Not Satan. No one.

"That's the band history, spiritually and musicianship-wise. It's a long story and it could hurt us, but we don't care. We're not ashamed of anything. We're going with the truth right now."

Their lyrics have changed as a result too. "We're not wanting to be the cliché metal band, where all the songs are the same: 'Give your heart to God, give your heart to God. This is what it could be like...' We started out that way.

"We're trying to say, 'Now. Here's where you go from there. Now that you've gotten saved, this is what you do...'"

****Who are your lyrics geared to?**

"Our lyrics have different styles in every song. We have some for the guy that's already a Christian and going to church. We have the guy that's a metalhead goin' to church. We have the person who is walking on the street and has never heard about Christ. We go for different kinds, because not all metalheads are the same. They're

different styles of people combined. Some of our songs are like, 'Rock the nation. All around the world we're praising God.' That's what we're telling young people that we're gonna do. We're ready to go out and be the witnessing tool. 'We're not gonna be ashamed anymore. It's time to start standing up for Jesus.' It's not any one style. We try to go with different styles of lyrics and music."

Mick just wrote a song containing his views on the whole scene with Jim Bakker and Jerry Falwell. It's called **Games With God**.

****Have you been freaking out over all this with Pure Metal?**

"We love it. We can't believe it's true. Not many bands from this part of Indiana can even make it on the bar strip or anything like that. What it comes down to is the anointing of God. It is an anointed band. I'm excited. I don't wanna go out and be big-headed. I don't wanna go out and say, 'Huh. We're the rock band now,' but I am excited.

"In this part of the state nobody's really heard of the Christian metal movement. They've heard of Stryper, just because they're on MTV. The only people I know, who've heard bands like Saint, Messiah Prophet, The 77's, are people I've played it for. It's not real big here. That's why we're so surprised. There's other groups who are startin' out here, like Christ Righteous."

****How often do you play and where?**

"Here in the past couple of months we haven't been playing much due to the band quit and a lot of us sold our equipment. We'd play skating rinks, outdoor jams, somebody's backyard, things like that. Most of the time it was free, so people could hear the Word of God. Then because it turned into a ministry, it's taking more money now. What we're wanting to do, if we can get the money and the endorsement, is be metal missionaries. We wanna attract kids. We'd like to have a good stage show. We do like choreography. We are the Dokken, Poison, Ratt movers onstage. We do like to move in sync and things like that. We use that for the attraction. We do want a good light show. We do wanna bring kids in. It all comes down to, if you're a ministry or not in the band. I think God will anoint ministries. I really do."

****What secular groups would you compare yourselves too?**

"We ourselves ask a lot of people. People say we sound like Dokken, Judas Priest and, occasionally, Metallica. The way our songs are hitting, we're turning more towards the Dokken style. There's gonna be two or three on the album that sound like Dokken, two or three like Priest and two or three that sound like Metallica. We are gonna do one good thrash song, which will be called **Thy Will Be Done**. It's

definitely tough. It's my wife's favorite song. It has some good double bass on that one. The music for the upcoming album is having a guitar sound real similar to Dokken and Metallica. That'll be what to look for."

****If Jimmy Swaggert was going to read this interview, what would you like to say?**

"I love you brother. You're doing a great job. Pray for me. I'll pray for you. It's God's people. Everyone of us in ministry is God's people. (Editor's note: Every Christian is now in the full-time ministry, period. We're royal priests. 1 Peter 2:9) Therefore, I will not say anything bad or have any bad feelings toward Jimmy Swaggert, because he's a brother in Christ."

****What's the new album gonna be called?**

"The titles are up in the air right now. We have either **Killing At The Cross, In His Name** or **A Coming Storm**. Those are just different things we've thrown up in the air."

"We're gonna try and shoot for a summer release, which means we're gonna record soon. With the trip to New Jersey next week, it should move the date up close."

"It'll have nine or ten songs on it."

****Why has God called Mick Rowe to this?**

"Because Mick Rowe loves the music. Mick Rowe loves kids. Mick Rowe's not afraid to talk. Mick Rowe loves Jesus. It's my best witnessing tool, not just because, 'Wow! There's a rock star,' but a witnessing tool. I think, if I listen to God and I do everything He says, He's gonna give me the things I want and I want to be able to talk to a lot of kids. I'll talk to one person, but if I can get a group of unsaved people in one place and talk to 'em, that's gonna be great. That's what it comes down to."

****The readers of Heaven's Metal are listening to you right now as they read this. What would you like to say to them?**

"Make sure you've got everything right with Jesus Christ. Make sure your heart is pure with Jesus Christ. Give it all and don't be afraid of anything He's going to give you. Don't hold anything against Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggert or any one of those guys that puts down heavy metal or does something wrong, because even though they may have hurt the body of Christ, they can be forgiven just like we are."

"Any group out there that thinks they're gonna be a signed group in just a couple of months like I did, tell 'em to get themselves a job while they're waiting on this record deal. It's fun, it's exciting, but--especially if you have a family--you can't be goin' out and quittin' jobs just because there's a record deal comin' up."

****How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for ya?**

"To make sure that our finances will be okay, that we can be a ministry. Gavin has told me many times, 'It takes money and finances to be a ministry.'"

"Tell 'em to pray that it continues to be a ministry. Pray for us spiritually, because any group can backslide in a minute. Any group. Stryper, Barren Cross, any one of the brothers. Pray for every one of the groups, not just Tempest. Pray for the songwriting. That it touches people's hearts. I don't want people to just hear the music. I want 'em to hear the lyrics. It's the most important thing to me right now."

****If you had the choice, who'd you like to tour with?**

"Right now I think, because we're just a starting group, we'd like to go with Saint or someone like that...Barren Cross. We don't want to get mixed up with the secular world right now."

"We want to talk to the secular world, but I want to come from a Christian atmosphere. Stryper is taking care of their part out in the secular world right now. I don't think we need too many big-time bands right now gettin' mixed up with the secular world. I'm anxious to see how the world will accept it. Right now it would be Saint, Barren Cross, Trytan and Whitecross."

****What scripture best signifies Tempest?**

"Psalm 33:3."

****Who's the best band you've ever seen and why?**

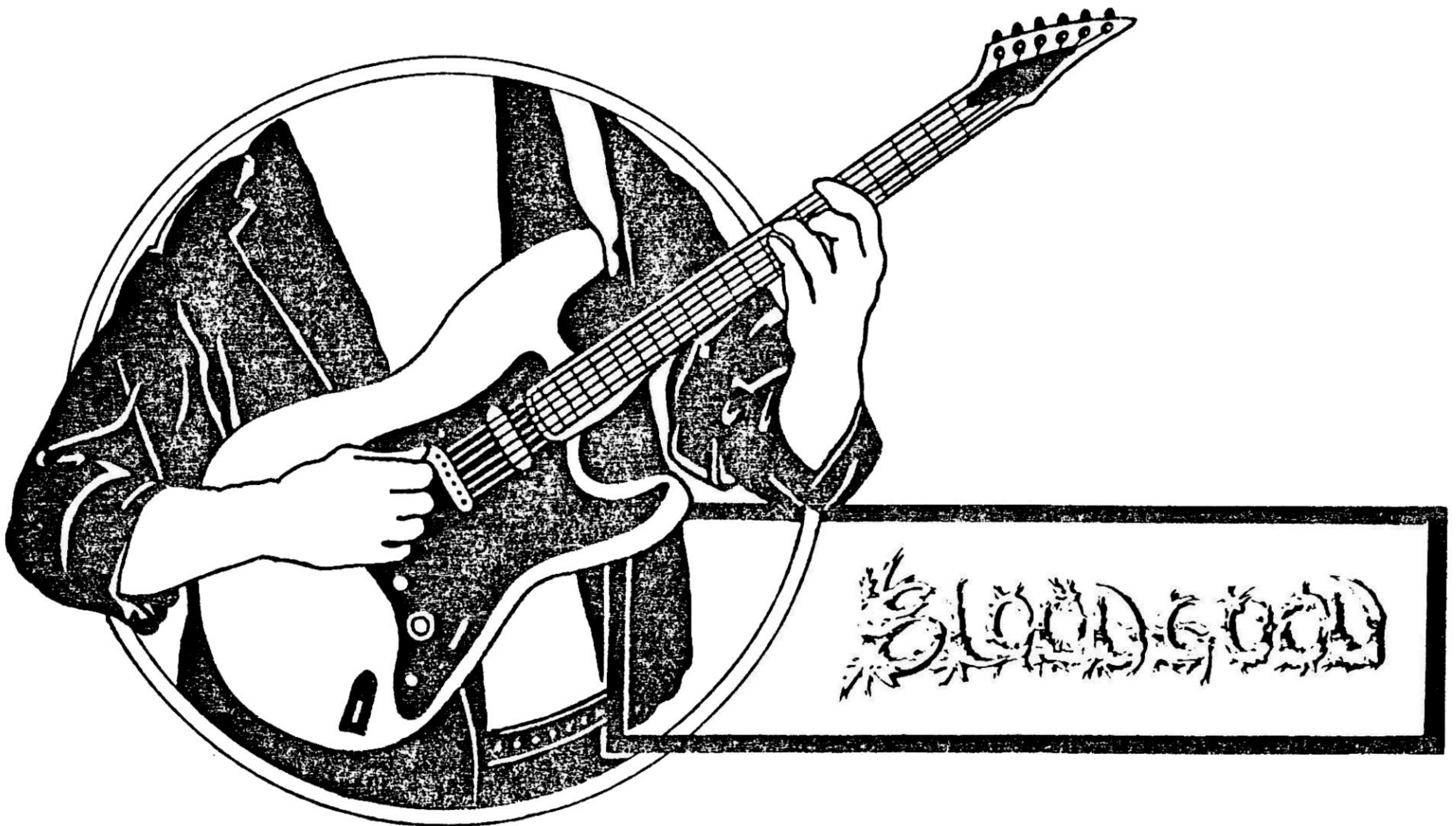
"Before I became a Christian, the only groups I've ever seen were secular. To me it would be Dokken, because George Lynch is an outstanding guitarist. Although I do not endorse any secular music at all. I don't even listen to it anymore. It's not right."

"I'm working on a song now off the record. The first verse is like, 'Motley Crue, I've got something for you/ It's called the Holy Ghost/ If Ratt would listen/ They'd meet the Lord of Hosts,' things like that."

"I was listening to a tape with an interview with Stryper. They were talking about AC/DC and Ozzy and all these groups: 'They have great music, but we can't condemn them.' I think we can. I think we can condemn the Satan that's in them and the people that's making that music are destroying kids. We need to come against that. We can't say, 'They're our friends, because they've got great music like we've got.' That won't work. We cannot compromise secular music at all. I just don't think it's right."

With this band's release of vinyl, they will make it easier for anyone that's in bondage to Dokken to let go and receive God's version. They're hot. I've heard the song **Metal Mission** and I think it's gonna be a challenge for them to cut a full-length album at this high level of energy and quality. They've got a good chance of doin' it and, if they do, they're gonna rock some socks off."

If you'd like to be their guitarist, send demo and photo, if possible, to Tempest, 508 Village Court, Apt. 413, Jasper IN 47546."



Bloodgood rocks!! By now most of you should be confirmed in this fact. The **Detonation** album has already sold 35,000 copies and will probably go over 100,000. The following interview delves into some of the techniques Bloodgood uses for their unique and unmatched sound. Guitarists: listen up.

****What amps do you use?**

"I use a Laney amp," says David. (Hot amps, by the way) "I also use a GK. I run the GK and the Laney and Y them together. It's not stereo, really, but it's kinda stereo. The bottom cabinet is the Laney, which is very similar to a Marshall head. It runs through a Marshall cabinet (412). The GK runs through the top cabinet.

"I like my sound, but I think I could get a better sound. Guitarists are notorious for that: always having to get a better sound, but I think I could do a little better. Mine's a little too low-endy and a little too muddy sounding. I've got so much round smoothness in it, it's almost indistinguishable in certain areas that I play.

"I'm almost leaning a little bit the way Stryper's goin': running it all through a para-metric. They're overkill. Nothing against you guys, Michael and Oz. They run their whole amps and compress down this huge sound about as big as the Astrodome and push it into a 'P.' That's what their sound is. I don't care for that sound, but I must say I love their playing and I love how it sounds as a whole. They do have a good sound as a band, so I can't rank it, because it's great. I kinda lean more towards

Eddie Van Halen's first album sound, you know? A real wide, breathing sound.

"The GK's rack mounted. I use an SPX. When I kick it on it sounds like the scary movies you've always heard. It's a digital multi-effects processor. It does all kinds of things. On **Stand In The Light**, I use a harmonizer. It wasn't just one note, it's a one and a five. The album has two guitars in the intro.

"You know how the solo in **Messiah** is real rich sounding? I have this thing that I set on my SPX. I set on my gated reverb. I make it into a delay, because I can change it from 100% to 50% of the effect. So, if I have it on 100%, all you're gonna hear is really the effect. You won't hear any of the guitar. It's not a mixing console, it's going through an amplification system. It's not like in the studio. So, if I put it on 100% on the unit itself, I'll only get pure effects, but bump it down to 50%, well actually 65%, so you're hearing the rest of the percentage, which is the guitar. So, if I play a note, the first thing you're gonna hear is the note.

"The effect actually has a milli-second delay on it if you want it. You can go down to 1/100th of a milli-second, so you can't even tell there's a delay...but, you can also bump it up to like 200 or 400 milli-seconds and it turns into a delay. So you have the guitar going 'dant' and then the reverb will come in and say, 'dant bamp.' When it does come in, it's not a delay, it's actually gated reverb. So then, when I play my notes, it's got this huge, fat digital-delay

reverb gated sound. It's really wild. That's what you're hearing on Messiah live--because I can't get what I had on the album. There's no way. I could, but it would be too muddy for live. It wouldn't sound as good. So the SPX is a very capable unit for stage amplification."

****How 'bout you, Mike? Do you use any radical techniques or uncommon chords or anything like that?**

"I do a lot of power chording and stuff on songs, which, I think a lot of times, you don't even hear it on the first record. I mean, you hear it, but don't really know you're hearing it. We have a couple of those on the new record, too, which really kinda booms it.

"Of course, when you're a three-piece band, you have to think differently on bass than you would, say, if you had a rhythm guitar player--like if you were doing an Iron Maiden setup or something--because you have to fill in the pockets. I feel like a rhythm guitar player a lot of times. You do a lot of stacatto, a lot of double time bass playing, so when David steps out to do a solo--it doesn't feel empty all of a sudden. I have big, huge cabinets on stage. I have four 18's and four 10's and about 800 watts of power, so we're really happenin'. So, you won't miss the rhythm guitar player. That's why they call the bass and drums the 'rhythm section.' That's really what we do. I think it's great. I really like to do it. It's just a neat position to be in."

****How tired do you get playing bass live?**

"Not too bad. I get off on it. It really never bothers me. As long as you're well rehearsed and stuff, it's really never a problem. My bass playing has become easier to do with Mark on drums. He's a very steady drummer. It's really a joy, to be honest with you."

****Are your uniforms comfortable?**

"All of us love 'em except Mark, of course, the drummer, so we let him wear whatever he wants to, basically. Yeah, they're real comfortable and we have new ones for the new album. They're pretty all-purpose for the most part. I think David's is a little restricting and stuff, but we really like the costumes and the guy that designed 'em is real talented."

****How do you feel about stage clothing? I noticed, in the interview in Vol II #3, that you changed out of your stage clothes after a concert before you went out and talked.**

"Well, I change 'em because I don't want to be rude. You know, when you're up there for an hour and a half sweating in your costume, I don't exactly want to go out to dinner in 'em. It's uncomfortable.

"How do I feel about 'em? It's part of being in a heavy metal band as far as I'm concerned. Like everything else that we try and do, we try and do the best we can. We try to get the best

costumes we possibly can. I hate to go into a rock 'n' roll store and just buy torn-up fishnet stuff off the rack. We try and have all of our stuff handmade. To be the very best we can in that area. To me that's just as important. A lot of people buy an album because of its cover or they'll look at the band and buy it because of, 'Hey! These guys look like they're serious,' or whatever. Of course I'm not talking so we can get record sales necessarily, but kids go into a Tower Records or a Budget Tapes or something like that and buy a record just because, 'Hey! This is heavy metal...Cool!' That's what we're trying to do there too."

With their new album, which features the most creative and professional album cover art put out by Frontline so far, this album should grab the attention of metalheads everywhere.

David wants Jackson to airbrush that artwork on a new Jackson guitar. They've got a "B-endorsement" with Jackson now, which gives them a 10% under dealer cost discount. David's gonna get one as soon as he gets the bucks.

If you haven't had a chance to see Bloodgood in concert yet, by all means go do it. For those of you who have, wasn't it just the best? For more Bloodgood info, read the quotes section and the **Detonation** review in this issue.

Metal Tracks cont'd

Second Chance is a Christian metal band from Washington D.C. Robby Lee, a good friend and brother of mine, is the drummer for this new band. They now have one hot and heaveee four-song demo available. Send a \$5 check or money order payable to Mike Vance @ Second Chance, PO Box 8507, Alexandria VA 22306. This is a chrome tape and includes lyrics. I'm tellin' ya, this is real metal, crunch and all!

Valor, formerly San Francisco's **Golgatha**, is releasing a five-song cassette EP on June 19th. It will be entitled **Masquerade**. A suggested donation of \$5 plus \$1 for postage and handling is requested. Because Valor isn't supported by a church, they are depending upon us to support them. You may send a larger donation if so led.

A promo 12-inch single, called **Valor**, will be released and sent to radio stations. There will only be 300 copies available to the public starting July 4th on a first-come, first-served basis with the above suggested donation.

The current lineup of Valor is: Michael Brueek - vocals; Chris Price - guitars; Vic Sardon - guitars; Adam Alvarez - bass/vocals; and Jim Maxwell - drums.

Golgatha was one heavy band, so I know Valor has got to be hot. Their address is: PO Box 1653, San Leandro CA 94577.

Confessions of a Rocker

By Niki Syxx

My name is Niki Syxx...What??? Isn't Nikki Sixx the bass player for Motley Crue? Yes, he is. But his real name is Frank, and my real name is Jeff. So how did we end up with the same stage name? Well, years ago, before Motley Crue was formed, I was in a popular Southern California band named "Squeeze" and I had decided that my name was just too plain and I needed a stage name. Since my last name is Nicholson, I thought I would call myself "Niki," but I couldn't think of a last name to go with it. Then one day, as I was driving in Newport Beach, I saw the name "Niki 6" on a license plate of a Mercedes...so, for the next five years of my life I was "Niki Syxx."

A few years later Frank started dating a girl who had earlier taken pictures of Squeeze. One day he opened her photo album, saw the pictures and took an interest in my stage name. After finding out that I wasn't playing music at the time, he decided to use it for himself. He later acknowledged this in a BAM magazine. In any case, he's welcome to the name, and I want to tell you why.

When I was Niki Syxx back in 1975, I was almost exactly like Nikki Sixx in Motley Crue...Sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. Although I wasn't heavy into drugs or alcohol (I don't know if he is either) I did love the other two parts of this "trinit": the sex and the rock 'n' roll. I wanted to be a rock star, and I wanted to be rich and famous and have a lot of girls.

But even though I spent my early rock 'n' roll years with a young and upcoming Sammy Hagar, and at one time been offered an audition for a band named Quiet Riot, and later became a local "star" of sorts in my band Squeeze, I never became a "true" rock star. I didn't "make it" as they say, and I certainly didn't become rich either. But I did get a bit of local fame, and I did get a lot of girls...many girls.

You see, this is the lifestyle that the entertainment world so often glamorizes through TV shows like Miami Vice, through James Bond type movies, through people like Hugh Hefner, and through rockers like David Lee Roth and their videos. They portray the "gigolo" type image as the "good-life," the "ultimate", and so, to many guys, this kind of life appears to be "heaven on earth". Having been with so many girls then, you would expect that I was living out all of my fantasies, and existing in some sort of constant state of ecstasy, pleasure and fulfillment, right?? **WRONG!!** After a time, I actually became

less and less fulfilled. Why??...Because everyone feels that natural desire to be faithful and committed to one person, but once you begin to live the "playboy" type lifestyle, it becomes nearly impossible to ever be truly faithful (both physically and mentally) to one person. I foolishly tried to do both and live a lie, and I ended up hurting and using many as well as being hurt and used myself...and even though I got practically every sexual disease known to man, I still thought I was having fun.

But I guess I needed an excuse to continue on living my "rock 'n' roll" lifestyle, so up popped another good-sounding lie. This one said, "Don't worry about it, because, in order to be a good lover, you need to 'practice' and develop your 'technique' or how else will you know how to someday please your wife, Right??...and how else will you know if you and your wife to be will be sexually compatible unless you find out, right??"...**WRONG!!**

This all sounds real logical, but it's a lie. Even after all those years of "practice," when it actually came down to being with my wife and pleasing her, all that "practice" didn't do me **ONE BIT OF GOOD!!** You see, there's nothing about sex that needs to be practiced. The joy of discovering one another in marriage, of being childlike and not knowing anything, of being sensitive and learning together takes care of all the practice you'll ever need. Believe me when I say the "experience" or "practice" will only hurt the purity of your marriage, it will **NEVER** help it!!

I mentioned that I was never heavy into drugs or alcohol, but I did try most everything, especially cocaine. I won't lie and tell you I didn't enjoy getting high sometimes, because I did, and I wouldn't argue that drugs and alcohol offer some pleasure...that's not the issue. The issue is that it's a trap. You see, once you start seeking pleasure from a pill, from a bottle, from a needle or whatever, then it's such an easy step the next time to just reach for that substance again for some fun, some craziness, some peace or relief, all the time ignoring the warnings you've heard over and over again that turning to these things leads to destruction...and there's the trap!!...You've begun to enjoy something that is beginning to destroy you. You've opened a door that doesn't easily close. Why not??...because it feels good...and if it feels good, do it, right?? **Wrong!!** Don't expect drugs or alcohol to **EVER** announce to you the physical, emotional, and spiritual price you **WILL** pay for turning to them for your joy, happiness or peace!!

You might say, "But I'm not **TOO** into it...I only do it on weekends and I don't **really** need them...besides, I can quit anytime I want." But

if you say you don't need them and yet you consistently continue to use them, do you even realize that you are being subtly seduced into a trap?? Think about it...who ever plans on being caught in a trap??

Realize that from the get-go drugs and alcohol feed on your pride...the pride that first says, "Be cool, everybody that's anybody is doing it and you can handle it!" Then the pride that refuses to believe that you're under its influence and says, "You're not hooked, you've got it under control, you're not as bad as so-and-so!" And finally the pride that refuses to ask for help or believe it even needs it. Once they have captured this space in your world, then comes their biggest lie, that life without them is boring, dull, and just not as exciting as it is with them. It's a lie from hell, and don't **EVER** believe it!

So what happened to me?? Does it sound like I'm about to tell you how miserable and depressed I became, maybe how I tried to commit suicide or something like that?? Well, not so. Maybe you've guessed it by now.

On Halloween night in 1979, I became something I never wanted to be, and that was a Christian. Believe me, the last thing on earth I ever wanted to become was a born again Christian, and especially not one of the ones you see on TV...you know, the ones that say "praise the Lord" after everything? I thought that in order to be a Christian I needed to cash in my brains, buy clothes at the Goodwill, and become some sort of religious "nerd." To me, Christians led boring, restrictive, and unexciting lives, and I didn't want any part of it.

But on that night, as a friend I loved and trusted talked sensibly to me about Jesus, "something" touched me to at least check it out. After all, if Jesus was really the Son of God, if what my friend was telling me about Christ dying for my sins and rising from the dead was really true, if Jesus was really coming back to judge this world, then I would be a total jerk to say, "No, sorry, I'm not interested." For the first time in my life I began to consider that maybe all my opinions about Christianity and God were wrong or distorted. Maybe the "God" I had created in my own image was a lie.

I took an honest look at the world we live in, and an honest look at the Bible and I was amazed just how true and accurate it was in describing our world. God began to open my eyes. But I had questions...maybe you do too...questions about the Bible, about other religions, or questions about pain and suffering. But are you really looking for answers, or just the nearest excuse to not believe??

Maybe you have doubts...I had them too. When I looked at the church, I saw a lot of preachers

begging for money. I saw a lot of hypocrites, people who called themselves Christians but sure didn't act like it. What I didn't realize was that the Bible had warned mankind 2000 years ago that people would act like this. Besides, how could the way somebody else acts ever be an excuse for me, or somehow nullify the truth of what Jesus said about such things as sin, salvation and judgement?? Would God judge me according to your shortcomings??...Of course not. True, everyone has shortcomings...maybe now you can understand that's what Jesus died for.

Maybe you especially don't like Christians pushing their "religion" on you...neither did I...But I didn't realize that Jesus had **commanded** His disciples to tell the world the "Good News." So what's the good news?? To love one another?? Do unto others...?? Well, not really...The good news is summed up in one verse...

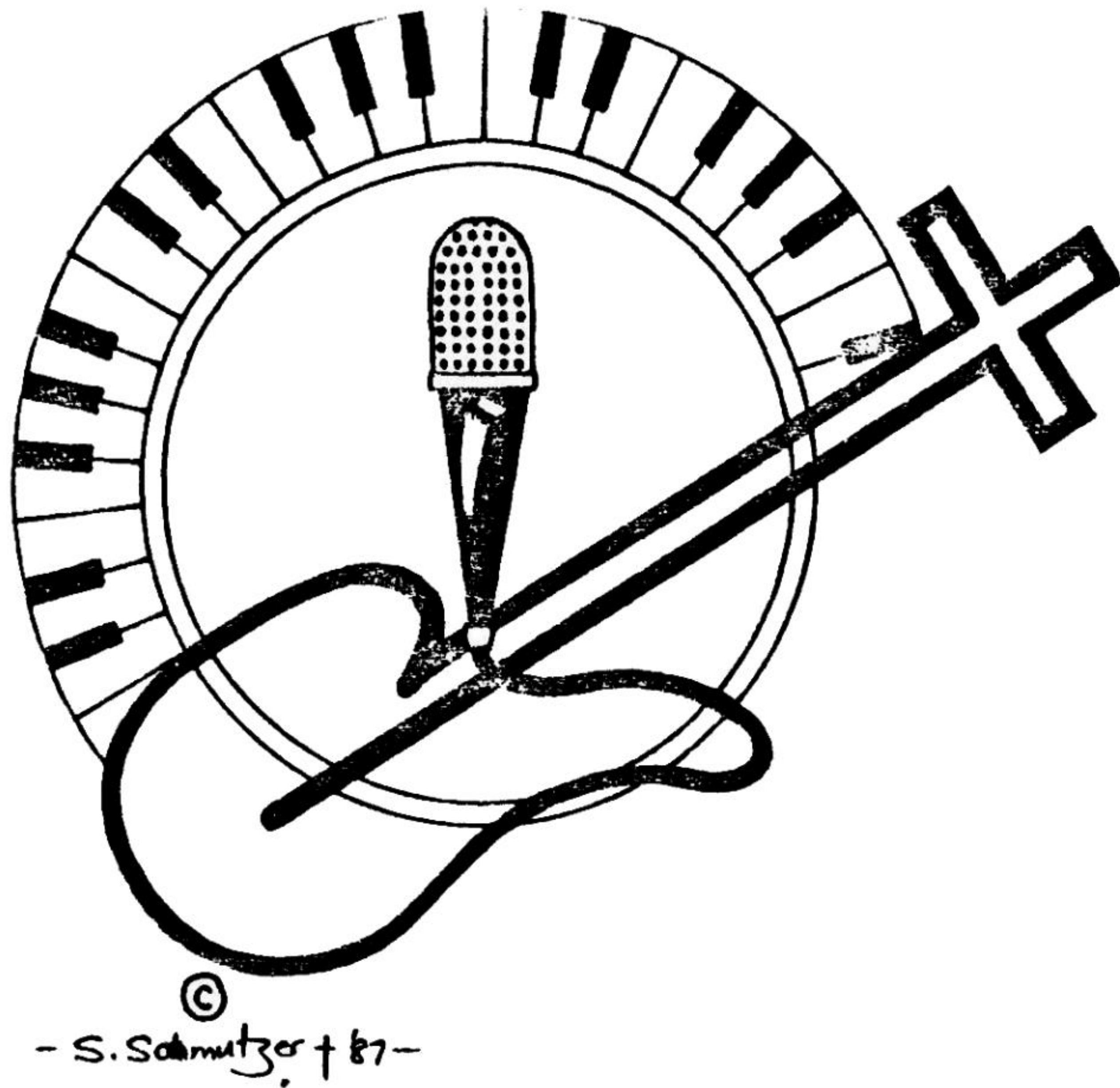
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever would believe on Him should not perish but have everlasting life." -John 3:16

So you see, if the gospel is really true, and Jesus died for you, then I would be the lowest creature on earth if I **didn't** tell you what He told all Christians to go tell the world...that is: repent, believe in Him, be born again, and you will be saved. Saved from what?? Saved from the wrath of God to come and eternity in Hell.

Maybe you're saying, "show me and I'll believe." When one of His disciples said that, Jesus said, "Believe because you see?? Blessed are they who believe and **don't** see." Instead of "show me and I'll believe," it's more like, "believe and I'll show you." You see, true belief takes faith and the Bible says that "without faith it is impossible to please God"...and it's not just faith that God exists, but faith in Christ. You must choose whether to in faith believe and accept Him, or not to believe and reject Him. Why?? Because God has given you the one thing you fight and struggle for all your life, and that's your free will. But understand that a decision either way takes faith. Understand that a decision either way doesn't change the truth of God's word...and understand that no decision is a "No" decision in God's book.

My advice to you is to go find the nearest Bible, ask God to open your eyes to the truth, and start reading the gospel of John...and find the nearest real Christian you know and begin asking questions and listening to answers.

Being a Christian is an exciting, energetic life. I still use my brains, and I haven't shopped at Goodwill lately...and you know what?? I really did "make it". Now I rock for the King



Quotable Quotes...

"Becoming ready to tour is not so much how many gigs you've done, it's where your heart is. You know, how low is your overhead? My family began preparing for the ministry years ago by keeping out of debt. Debt is what really keeps people off the road. It's just not really being able to afford to go. You have to just be called to it too. Living out of a suitcase is real glamorous for about three days and then it gets real old."

--Michael Bloodgood

****How do you feel about kids idolizing Christian metal bands?**

"I have a problem in it just being a form of entertainment, because for us it's not that we're going out just to entertain, but the main purpose of the band is: basically, we're evangelists. That's what we're all about. That's what we wanna do. If we don't do it with the band, we'll do it elsewhere."

"To an extent it's good. I think it's good to a point where they're singing to the Lord and they can take those things. I know, when I was wordly, I idolized certain people because they were into the occult and that's what I liked a lot about them."

"Also, I've talked to a lot of people who are idolizing Christian bands. It's mostly girls I talk to and it's, 'Oh they're so cute. They're this and that.' You never hear any ministry comments or where, 'They're so into the Lord.' That's where I have a problem."

"As long as they're idolizing the right thing about them. I think Christ has to be portrayed through us and if they're idolizing Christ through us, fine. But if they're idolizing the band, I have problems with it. If there's a way to do it where they wouldn't see us, it'd be great. That we may become less as He is made greater..."

--Deliverance

"The last time we played, we were all Baptists. Now this time we're playin', we're all Presbyterians."

--Richard Conine, of Arkangel, at the Arkangel Reunion concert on August 30th, 1986.

"We chose our name because it fits in with some of our concepts. I've been into Nastrados and Edgar Casey, a psychic prophet. We'd been searching for four days for our name and I saw Duhill's book, The Prophet, and that was it. The rest of the band liked it."

--Scott Metaxas of Prophet
(Editor's note: Psychic prophets are not of God.)

"Somebody save me."

--Cinderella

"I have worked in a mental institution for two years. During this period I have seen what the world classifies as insane. My job has been direct supervision and counseling of what the institution calls emotionally disturbed teenage adolescents. I have learned much in this interesting field of work and there is one thing I am positive of: Psychiatry is the fastest growing God-less religion on the planet. It is full of undermining, brainwashing, self-made messiahs and is destroying more youth than satanism."

--Steve Streiker of Stryken

"A lot of the minor chords associated with metal have an atmosphere that we don't...We wanna promote, I guess, a more positive appearance of joy. That's something we don't feel we can do effectively through a real grindy, minor sound."

--Alliance

"I don't think God's going to do His mightiest move through rock music. I don't think we should get big-headed and think that He is. I think He is going to do His mightiest work in prayer and through a unified body."

--Doug Van Pelt of Heaven's Metal

"We prepare every night like it's the Super Bowl."

--Rick Cua to a crowd of 50 in Waco TX

"All my revelations come when I'm on the toilet. Ever since my first prayer was answered on the toilet. I was about seven years old and I prayed that it would snow. My parents laughed, because it never snows in May. It snowed the very next day. Now it seems that every time I have a revelation, that it's when I'm on the toilet."

--Steve Streiker of Stryken

"Altar calls are something that we're very open to. I don't think we've ever done one yet, though. Not because we're against 'em, just 'cause the Lord hasn't led Michael that way. I think it's gonna be Michael that's gonna have the first altar call."

"There was one time I really felt like having one and I should've. I had a call. I should've called the people forward. I think Michael even said that. He goes, 'Man you should've just done it then, ya know? If you felt that strong about it.' The band's very open to that. It was in Santa Cruz."

"Altar calls are something man's made up. Have you ever noticed that? Did Jesus ever have any? People come forward and they figure that's all they gotta do. They've made their commitment--they've cried a little bit; they've pledged their allegiance, if you will--for that duration of time and they're done. Of course, that's not gonna be for everyone. Some people are gonna have very sincere hearts and it's gonna be true revival or true conversion."

"I think it's even harder just to say to the people, 'Look. You follow me.' That's it."

"Did you ever think about this?: Zaccheus and Jesus are walking together. He had said, 'Zaccheus come on down. I'm gonna stay at your house tonight.'"

"Zaccheus flipped out. He was just blown away. So, he jumps down off the tree and starts walkin' with the Lord. They're walkin' together and he goes, 'Im walking with Jesus man! This is the Chosen One of Israel. This is the Messiah!' He's freakin' out and all kinds of things are probably goin' through his head about who Jesus really was. Maybe he was thinking, 'Maybe He really isn't the One, but everyone else says He is.' All these head trips are going through his mind, but he says, 'I don't care. He's going to my house tonight and I'll find out for sure. This guy raised the dead!'"

"As they're walking, Zaccheus hears the crowd say, 'He's eating at that sinner's house? Man, I know Zaccheus. That guy is a rip-off! He's

ripped money off of us...mumble, mumble.'"

"He stops and looks at Jesus, 'cause he knows the Lord heard too, and he says, 'Look, Lord. I don't care. I'll pay 'em back four times. Whatever it takes. Just stay at my house. I don't care.'"

"Jesus sees true conversion there. He says, 'Salvation has come to this man's house.' Jesus realized that Zaccheus got saved at that time, really. Because he trusted in the Lord. That's the thing, when we have Jesus coming in to our house, okay? And Jesus is knocking at the door, right? This is the church He was talking to, not non-believers. You know, 'I stand at the door and knock?' He's gonna stay at our house that night, right? And you hear the mumbling in your heart, saying, 'Well look, man. You're out laying girls. You're getting high...mumble, mumble.' Do you stop and say, 'The Lord doesn't care. He'll deal with it. It's okay?' Or do you come to repentance and say, 'Lord, I don't care what it is, I'll leave it all behind, but just stay with me?' Which one are you? Which category do you fall into?"

"For our concerts, I think it's gonna deal with it on that level. It's gonna leave the ball in their court. They're gonna have to make the decision on that level. They're not gonna be able to come forward and just make a little commitment and that's gonna be their salvation. No, they're gonna have to deal with Jesus Christ and say, 'Okay. No matter what it takes. I'll pay back people four times over, just stay at my house.'"

"Jesus says, 'I come in and make my abode with you. Make Myself a house, a tent, a dwelling place and live with you.' It's the same thing with Zaccheus. It's no different."

"That's where Bloodgood's coming from. The day the Lord says, 'Call 'em forward Mike. I wanna see an altar call tonight.' Michael's not gonna say, 'No.' He's gonna say, 'Okay Lord.' He'll be the first one to get down there and call 'em forward. I know, 'cause that's the way Mike is. He's open to the Lord's work.'"

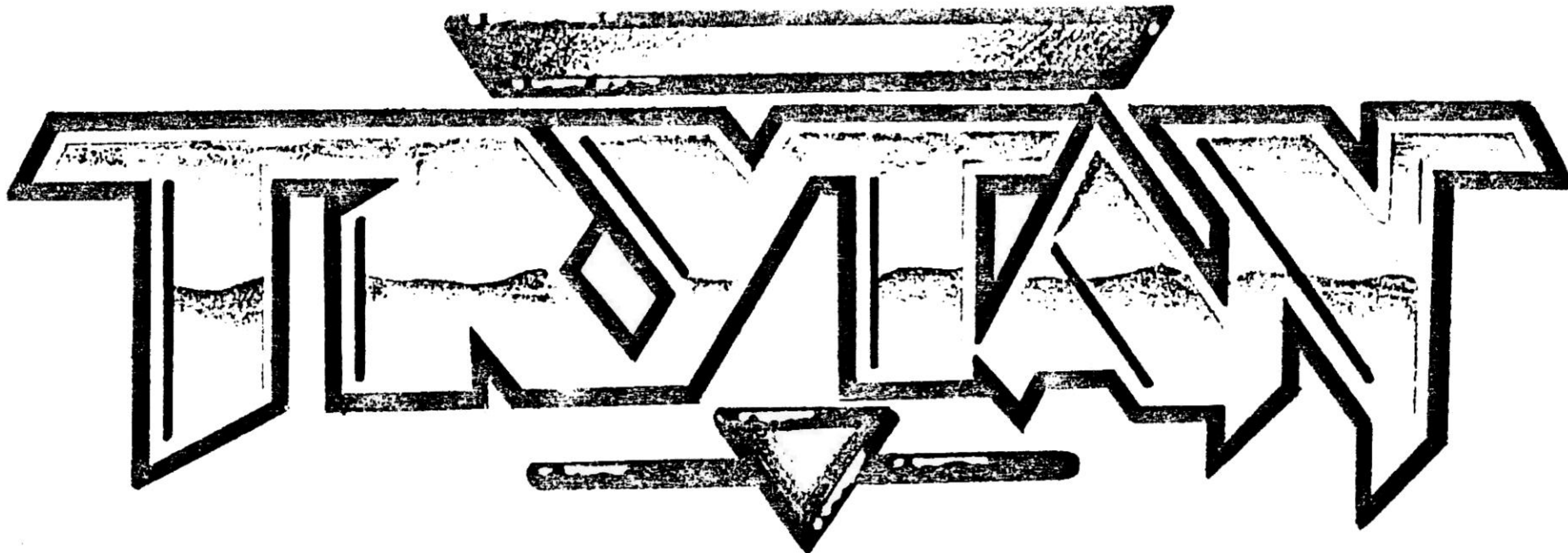
--David Zaffiro of Bloodgood

"Tempest is not against any church. We want to work with any church, any denomination."

"Go to church. That's where you get fed. You don't get fed at secular concerts."

--Mick Rowe of Tempest

Abortion is murder! Help stop it by finding out who your senators and representatives are and where they stand on abortion and related family issues. Whenever anything comes up in congress on these issues, let them know how you feel. Get your friends to write, too.



Trytan

By Bob Hopkins and Doug Van Pelt

To Reach Youth Through Almighty Nazarene is the goal. This band is the instrument and boy does it sound great! Lary Dean, the Geddy Lee, I mean vocalist, of Trytan, is just a super neat guy. I get truly blessed and touched by the Lord whenever I talk to him. The last time I asked him what was happenin', he said, "First of all, the Lord is so good and so powerful." I tell ya, he loves Jesus.

God has truly blessed this band with a big, HUGE sound. They have been signed by R.E.X. Records, who used to be Park Avenue Records and changed their name, because of copyright laws to the name.

The record will be called **Celestial Messenger**, just like the demo, and will feature all nine songs remixed from the demo plus one new one, called **It's War**. It is being pre-sold now and will be out in the beginning of July in stores all around the world.

Currently the band is rehearsing and getting their set tight. "We're also writing our second album," says Lary. "It's tentatively gonna be called **Beyond The Night**."

The band will be playing some local gigs and maybe heading out west as soon as the album's released.

After coming to Jesus, Lary soon realized that the only thing he could do with his life with any real meaning was to fully surrender to the lordship of Jesus.

"I continued to work in music at that time in nightclubs, high schools and colleges. We kinda made a transition from doing secular performances into taking the Christian message into secular areas, like secular high schools, colleges and nightclubs. I don't need to tell ya what a trip that was.

"There was a real heavy point in my life when God needed to know that my whole life was on the altar, not just part of me. You know, one foot on the altar and the other foot in the world, going down the middle of the road. Jesus said, 'If any man would come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow after Me.' Jesus doesn't need a big man, but He needs all of him."

"That is the most important thing that I learned: the difference between believing in God and truly surrendering your life wholeheartedly to His lordship. Once that happened in my life, I just really began to feel the Lord's power and His prescence begin to take over. It's just really unbelievable. I fear that there are many Christians who are confused as to what it really means to be a Christian. That about sums it up. If you're in love with other things more than you're in love with the Lord...

"You can examine your life like the Bible says: To examine your life to prove that you're in the faith. You can see whether Jesus is really the Lord of your whole life. I just can't say how much that's gonna make a difference in your walk with Him. It surely made a difference with me.

"Then we began to play with power and might in these secular areas and started to affect people greatly with the witness and, yes, we were rejected too. It was neat to see the difference of completely surrendering and being used by God in a full, complete way, rather than kind of be tickling people's ears with kind of a watered-down message of Who Jesus is.

"We're really committed to getting behind the enemy lines. Realizing that there is a war and that the enemy is really running rampant in this day and age through music mediums and just about every medium that you can imagine. We wanna be a direct combatent to the enemy. We wanna get in there and, through a sensitive, well-thought out, wisely-put-together message, be bringing the mesage of Jesus to these kids.

"If we can bless Christians in any way, teenagers that are born-again believers, that's great, but we're not targeting our ministry toward believers. Jesus says, 'It's the sick that need a physician, not the healthy.' We wanna be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to be able to minister and witness to the unsaved. We definitely see the need for more ministry.

"If you're a musician and you feel God calling you, I just urge you to get rooted and grounded in His Word and see if God is gonna use you behind enemy lines to pull these people out of the very fire of hell. The ministry that's going to the body is blowing away the ministry that's going to the world. We don't need to be afraid. We don't need to worry about what Christians are gonna say about us listening to God's voice and goin' to places they might not think are cool.

"Paul's ministry was in opposition to the other apostles. In Jerusalem Peter, James and John all wondered and opposed him and his ministry towards the Gentiles. If he would've rolled over and died at that time, we wouldn't be saved right now, because we are the Gentiles. I just wanna encourage people that feel like they're being called and are wondering about where to go, the Lord is gonna lead you. Realize that there's such a great need to get in there with these unsaved kids. That's basically our approach to ministry."

**Bob Hopkins--Have you seen any fruit from your ministry?

"We've seen fruit locally in our ministry, not what I know we're gonna see. A lot of times in ministry you can't be discouraged, 'cause somebody else may reap the harvest that you plant. We have had converts and people be effected to accept the Lord. More than that, though, I think we've planted seeds into people's hearts--that we know the Lord is gonna be faithful to reap later through, perhaps, another ministry down the road. The Bible tells us that His Word never comes back void. We have been bold with our witness in many, many situations in nightclubs.

"I'd really like to get hooked up with some secular concerts. Just off the top of my head, I'd like to tour with Bon Jovi or Motley Crue--these types of groups, that are out there really roaring for the kingdom of darkness. We'd like to get in front of these groups and play a 45-minute set for the Lord in front of these audiences and take whatever heat we have to take, but to bring the message of the Lord to 'em.

"As far as locally, we'll be willing to play some nightclubs where we know we'll be able to play our music and bring the Trytan message of the love of the Lord Jesus. We've done some seminars with other musicians at churches, but as far as Trytan goin' into churches, unless it's a special-type situation, I don't see us doin' that."

**Bob--What kind of response have you gotten from people concerning your nightclub gigs and stuff?

"We have taken some heat from brothers and sisters about doin' nightclub ministering and stuff like that. We're sensitive to what people have to say, 'cause we don't know it all. Like Paul says, 'If we think we know it all, we better watch out, for we know nothing yet as we ought too.'

"We're open to what brothers and sisters have, as far as input and criticism, but we're following the Lord's lead. The Lord led the disciples into many a heavy situation. If they didn't follow Him, they would be skippin' ship and we don't wanna do that. We wanna follow the Lord wherever He leads us. It's hard to minister in these nightclub situations, because people, more than not, are drinkin' and drunk and just lookin' to get hammered on booze and they don't listen. But there is another positive aspect of it. That is: people go to these places because they're hurtin'; because they're lonely; because they're lookin' to fill their life with everything they can. God has designed us with what I call an emptiness, a pit, a hallowness in our soul that God has designed for Himself, so He can have fellowship with us and be the center of our life. What people are trying to do in the world, that haven't come to know the love of the Lord and accept it, they're trying to fill their life with everything else and it just doesn't do it. Jesus said to the woman at the well that, no matter how much she drank of that water, she would always be thirsty again. Whoever would drink of the water that He would give them would never thirst. The Lord only satisfies.

"We wanna be there for those people. If God is gonna affect someone, we wanna be there for the Lord to: minister; to witness; to plant seeds. We'd like to get more into a youth-orientated thing. As you know, nightclubs are more a 21 and over thing, especially in Illinois.

"We would like to get on tour with someone professionally in the secular field and take our ministry there. If God opens that door, we're trusting Him to do that. That's what we feel we're called to do. Perhaps we'll have a chance to tour with some of these bigger Christian brothers: You know, the heavyweights like Stryper and Barren Cross and guys like Petra, who really have established ministries and are doin' just fantastic. We'd like to get under their wings and let God start to work with the body as He wants to work in the unity of the Holy Spirit. God is gonna be raising up His people, especially His young people, like never before in the 80's and into the 90's.

"We're gonna be lookin' to get together with whoever God is gonna lead us to as far as: management; a label and people who will help

Trytan cont'd

us...and we're just gonna let the Lord go. Let Him use us and take us wherever He wants."

Trytan is probably gonna turn some heads when they come screaming out on their new label. They're loaded with talent, which is truly a gift from the Lord.

"We have a kind of high-energy type of Rush sound with a phenomenal drummer. Who, I would say is probably one of the greatest drummers I've heard. I'm a guitarist and I know most guitarists aren't real fans of drummers. In fact, they consider 'em more of a problem than anything else, but Scotty is really talented. I'm just so thankful to have him as a partner in ministry. Our new bass player is Steve Robinson. He is another phenomenal musician. I mean, these guys are just incredible, very anointed and very serious about playing music for the Lord."

****Bob--How can we pray for ya?**

"We just really thank Bob and these great Christian metal magazines, for their help, their support and their exposure. We want everyone to know that Trytan is gonna be prayin' for these guys, just like the audience and the readers of these magazines.

"What we need is that we would continue to grow in our Christ-likeness. That we would really be drawn to seek the Lord and fellowship with the Lord and get into His Word.

"We have a ministry beginning now at our studio in Thornton, Illinois, out by Kell City. We wanna start and have a follow-up ministry to supplant with our music ministry. Pray that God would use that and bring people and staff members and fellow Christians to come out to help. All so we can just really affect people for the Lord Jesus in these last days. That's all we wanna do: is share His love to this dying world."

Let's lift this band up to the throneroom of Jesus. (Hebrews 4:14-16) I think God is going to do something big with this band.

R.E.X. Records has gone to Atlantic about distribution. Atlantic told 'em that they would have to move 35,000 units first, before they would pick 'em up. Trytan got a couple reviews in Cutting Edge and Metal Forces that were so good that a lot of people really started to check it out. Capital Records really got interested, so now it looks like Atlantic and Capital are comin' to Trytan.

"We feel real safe. Both the administrators of our label are really steady, rock-solid Christians. They're a small label, but Trytan's in the Lord's interests first, so we feel like we can go to a big distributor or big record label like that and not have to worry about a lot of the big record company scams."

Special thanks go to David A. Vaughn for the wonderful new logo!

Ariel

Ariel is a new hard rockin' band from Victoria, British Columbia in Canada. They have a sound their own, which is not too far from the first Daniel Band and Resurrection Band albums.

The lead vocals come from behind the drumkit a la Steve Sawatsky. Some excellent guitar work comes from Ron Willes, who also writes most of the music. Bruce Davies lays down a solid bass line. Lisa Sawatsky adds good harmonizing vocals on some of the songs.

The highlight of the album has got to be Ron Willes' guitar work. He receives a four-star rating for his efforts here. His playing is real smooth and controlled. It's not flashy, nor is it slow and predictable. You can't hear his guitar pick clicking against the strings, the notes just come out as if it sang by itself! His rhythms have the right amount of distortion to rock the music.

Side two of this album seems to out-perform side one. Some of the songwriting and hooks on side one lack a snap or real exciting direction. The first song, **Take Hold**, seems to be held back speed-wise by the fact that a drummer is singing. That's what it seems like to me. I know it must be hard to sing in key while moving all your arms and legs at the same time. Before this limitation gets too far, Ron's guitar work comes to the rescue.

This band really has mega-potential. Their talent is very evident in this album. Better songwriting could push this band into the limelight easily. I imagine Ariel really shines in concert. Choruses like the one in **Draw Close** sound like they would benefit from the volume, room and energy of a live performance.

Set Me On Fire is another song that's not loud enough on record. It starts off with some cymbal smashing and a gnarly rhythm that I know would just rock in concert! This album is much better loud than it is soft. (I turned it up so I could hear those cymbal smashes louder)

The instrumentation on this album is top-notch. Little accents like the chimes that introduce **Psalm 139** set this album head and shoulders above many other independent releases. The guitar actually starts crying and sings beautifully during this song. Man! I love emotion in a guitar. This could be a Gary Moore song...I mean that!

Favorites of the album would have to be the first two songs on side two: **Fight For Your Life** and **Love Not The World**. They're "metal-hour radio playable" (what an adjective!) and the hardest tunes on the album.

Love Not The World should put to rest any accusations that Christian rock writers are shallow in their message: "For He which has called you He is holy/ So be holy in all of your manner/ for you are living stones in a spiritual house/ walk in His love God's holy banner."



* **Apostle** is looking for an excellent Christian heavy metal bass player. Must be sold out to Jesus. Get in touch with Matt Harding @ (904) 384-2980, 3885 Valencia Rd, Jacksonville FL 32205.

* **The Cutting Edge** is a great monthly newsletter covering all types of Christian music. 12 issue sub is \$9. Send to: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Kosher Records** can get a record for you when no one else can! 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* **Heaven's Metal** sells Pure Metal Records through the mail! All proceeds go into the production of the mag. \$8.98 plus \$1 postage.

* **Rizzen Roxx** is downright edifying! 6 issues = \$6. Send to: Judd Harper, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **Risen Rock**. A rad rag. \$3 gets you 6 issues. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian heavy metal. Issue #2 is now out, featuring 28 full-size pages of: News, Reviews, Interviews (White Cross, Bloodgood, Stryken, Daniel Band, Lazarus), Demo reviews, a Reader's Chart, and lots of pictures. Guaranteed to kick the devil in the face! Send \$2 to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept Z, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **Radio Airplay!** The Rock Foundation serves Western North Carolina and East Tennessee on Saturday nights. Submit your recordings to 'em at The Rock Foundation, PO Box 4271, Hickory NC 28603.

* **WSAJ** at Grove City College in Grove City PA has a two hour Christian metal show on Saturday nights called "The Heaven's Metal Show." Scott Ebert is the dj and will play your music if you send it to him at 209 Elfort Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15235.

* **Bands:** send demos/records to WVLJ for radio airplay. Mail to: WVLJ Radio, Resurrection Sounds, RR1, Box 121, Monticello IL 61856.

* **Zoe** - A monthly publication free of charge to those who ask. Each issue centers on a theme. Good for Bible studies and group discussions of any kind. Zoe, PO Box 2313, Lincoln NE 68502.

* Notice to all bands of Christian faith wanting their demos aired on the FM dial, please send your demos and bio/promo material to: "The Word Be Heard." c/o A.D.A. 1402 E. College Ave, #211-D, Normal IL 61761. Hey: White Metal; punk; rock; and thrash bands. Want to have your demos sold at a secular record store? Write to above address.

* **Ezra**, original Hardcore/Metal ministry from Denver, seeks born-again, Spirit-filled, single bass player to relocate to Denver immediately. Good equipment and long hair a must. 18-24 yrs old. Gigs lined up. Promo available. Bibi (303) 399-7119.

* **God's Banging Banner**. Kansas' only Christian metal mag. Lots of underground groups. \$1 for a sample issue. \$5.50 for a year's subscription (6 issues). Mail to: Nick Wittstruck, Box 428, Bucklin KS 67834.

Just when you thought reading was safe - **THE ACTIVIST**. each issue includes features, artist profiles (secular/Christian), record reviews, and comix that fall under the theme of "radical truth through art, music, and social commentary." For a sample of this contemporary Christian paper, send \$1 to:

MANNA UNDERGROUND PRESS
3383 1/2 MAHONING AVENUE
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44515 (USA)

Metal Tracks cont'd

Bloodgood has just finished their first video, for the song **Messiah**. It's kind of like a concept and live concert video combined. It will be world premiered on TBN's **Real Videos** 11 pm PST on Saturday, June 20th and repeated the following Friday, the 26th, at 12 am PST. Frontline Records will be pushing it to all the major video shows. Let's pray it gets on MTV!

Other Frontline videos being released are: **You Are Loved** by The Altar Boys, who are hosting Real Videos Saturday, June 27th; **Breakaway** by Idle Cure; as well as a new Crumbacher tune, called **Once In A Heartbreak**.

Oops Department Revisited. We're talking major goof here: **Dual Edge's** custom tape is called **Knock 'Em Alive**, not **Knock 'Em Dead**, as I had printed last issue.

Deliverance's address is: 13720 Regentview, Bellflower CA 90706.

Bride's address is: Rt. 1, Box 115A, West Point KY 40177

Leviticus opened up for **Twisted Sister** in Finland, not England as previously reported. (Hey they both sound similar over the phone)

X-Terra has a demo tape for sale. It's yours for \$2.50. Write X-Terra, c/o Bob Kachline, PO Box 2287, Wilkes Barre PA 18703-2287.

Mark Farner

Mark Farner, the backbone of the late Grand Funk Railroad, is out preaching the gospel in bars. He stopped into The Back Room in Austin to lay down some licks and lift up His Lord. He and his all-Christian band, Adrenalin, had the crowd from the first power chord to the last. This guy can play the guitar! Those six strings seem to be at his mercy, singing along at full volume.

Farner showed off what all of today's metal bands ought to be thankful for: early 70's pure hard rock. He let everyone there know why he was here and even spent a couple hours one on one with fans expounding on it.

After the last personal visit was over (he was praying with this guy), Mark and his band chatted with a couple of friends * and I for the following article. (* = Curtis Tarpley and Carey Womack .ie Kosher)

****Kosher:** We know it's tough for ya. The road can be hard on anybody. There's Christians choppin' you down and then somebody comes to hear all the old tunes and hears about Jesus. Some people are ready to hear it and some people don't like it. You've got to put up with both sides.

"You know what?" says Mark. "We've been blessed for the most part, because we bind the strong man in these places before we go in. Fortunately, the demons that squeal and get bummed out when we say Jesus Christ and we're not cussin' in the bars--they have never risen above the applause and the acceptance that happens at that point. It even happened tonight.

"You feel the acceptance. It was like a whole change of attitude, but it was more directed at me. They were listening. Their attention...I felt it just focus in. Hey. That's the Holy Spirit. It's by God that men are drawn to Jesus Christ. We don't expect everyone in the bar to obtain salvation tonight, but we tilled up ground and planted seeds.

I've prayed with a bunch of people since we started doin' this. I was out with Vision and we prayed with a bunch of people. We've prayed with over 300 people in the last 10 months.

"Some bar owners have come to the Lord. We've had a bar owner take out all his cocaine and flush it down a toilet."

****Kosher:** We just encourage you: that when the frustrations and that stuff comes, that you'll stay strong and know people are prayin' for you.

"I appreciate it, along with everybody here."

****Doug:** You mentioned in your interview in New Sound Magazine that you planted a lot of spiritual seeds with Grand Funk and now there's a harvest out there for you, because people are going to be lookin' to you. Maybe to answer a lot of the questions that you stirred up back in

those days. Expound on that a little bit and tell us how it's goin' and what was goin' on when you were writing those tunes.

"I was prayin'. You see, I was saved when I was nine years old and I backslid. I left Jesus, but Jesus didn't leave me. I prayed and He answered my prayers--even though I was backsliding. Once you get Jesus, you can't get rid of Him. We can fall into iniquity. We can put our hand into iniquity, but by His grace we are saved. That's so true. The evidence to me is the life that I've lived. You would have to walk that whole life to know how confirmed I am on that. But I know that Jesus answered my prayers.

"God Almighty heard me when I was prayin' and the success of Grand Funk was due to my prayers and due to the fact that God knew all along where I was gonna be. **I believe it was predestined for me to do what I'm doin' tonight.**

"I prayed for words and music that would touch the hearts of people and make a difference in their life for Him--even when I was backsliding. He gave me those words and gave me that music. Today, when I talk to people, they start cryin'. Vietnam veterans that heard the song **I'm Your Captain**, over in Vietnam, you know? The chorus starts: 'I'm getting closer to my home.' You heard 'em in here tonight. That song--they didn't even realize how spiritual it was. Then, after a performance, they come up and say, 'I knew there was something special about that song, and now it got all put together for me tonight. I got it in the right light. Now I understand why it means so much,'--because it was speaking right directly to their spirit."

****Doug:** I talked to one guy, who's an old fan of yours, and he made me realize one of the things in your life that's a witness for Jesus: your youthfulness. He was sayin' that he saw you 20 years ago and you look like you haven't aged a bit. You looked like a 25 year old out there tonight. I think God's given you that countenance and that joy.

"For 38 I feel 28." The rest of the band bursts out in laughter and comments about the "fibre wafers and the ginseng making the difference."

****Doug:** Was there a big event that brought you to full repentance?

"Outside of the fact of my wife leaving, you mean? My wife had left the house and wanted to just be away on her own. I married her at a very young age and she was forced into making some heavy decisions at a point of her life when she was least capable. Which is life, you know?

"She had been gone a couple of weeks and I went to several churches and found no love, just heavy conviction, hellfire and brimstone and dead, hypocritical people--churches full of 'em. I

didn't want any part of it, 'cause I knew what I was after. When I finally walked into a church where there was 16 people, an Assembly of God. I snuck in after the service started to the back pew. I sat there and felt that every word that that guy preached was for me and that God put me in that last pew. When he got done with the sermon, I ran up there and I got right. I repented for my sins and I asked the Lord to take my life over completely. I rededicated myself and my wife did the same thing, the same day, fifty miles away in another town. If that ain't God, then God ain't God."

This little tour through local bars around the country has been touching people in big ways. The band was talking about how the local promoter here and the people working at The Back Room had the courtesy to not curse or smoke around 'em. The promoter said it was the best band he's ever worked with. He went on to say he definitely felt something. (Felt something eh? Sounds like Mr. Holy Spirit.)

Mark is real excited about Christian rock and its fruit. "It's great...this 'God rock.' (There's another name to add to our list: God Rock; White Metal; Christian Metal; Holy Headbanging; Righteous Rock and metal; and Jesus Rock.) It's in the world now, but there's not enough stations playin' it. You've got the religious sect against it. Jesus will be exalted and He will draw all men unto Him, where His name is lifted up on this earth. Man, I stand on that. I claim that in scripture. I lift His name up and He's gonna use us. I believe that He'll give spiritual gifts to a true heart that'll exalt Him and give Him all the glory."

**Kosher: I'm really glad to see what you're doin'. A lot of Christians get saved and they go and kinda play the Christian circuit and everything. Maybe God's called a lot of people into that, but, it's fantastic to be out where people need to hear it. People are looking for something. I'm glad you're doing that.

"Entertainment is just a sideline, a by-product of what the real deal is. When you're talking about life, they start zero-ing in on what you're saying. Even if they're drunk. You talk about the meaning of life, and you say those words to somebody: 'The meaning of life,' and you get their attention. Everyone always has, sometime or another in their lifetime, if not a lot of their lifetime, pondered on the meaning of life. You start talking about it and tell them that this is the proving grounds and that the spirit in them is eternal; whether it's in hell or heaven is up to us, it really makes 'em think. It really does: that reality."

**Doug: There's a lot of readers that are forming Christian bands or they're in 'em and they're looking for advice. What would you like

to say to 'em in the way of advice or encouragement?

"Seek God and all of His righteousness and all other things will be added unto them. That's my advice to every young Christian band. That if they truly seek God and His righteousness and know the full meaning of those few little words and live that, then they'll be A-ok and God'll take care of 'em. They won't have anything to worry about."

"I've tried to make things happen when I first got going. I went and I did a demo tape, went to a studio. I said, 'Well, God wants me in this music ministry, so I gotta make a tape. I gotta take it to record companies. I gotta get a record deal and get some front money and get out on the road and get this thing happenin'. That's the way you do it in the secular field."

"You don't do that with God. After trying and trying and trying to get even a phone call to the 700 club or the PTL Club or to get somebody to return a call to let 'em know where I was at...I was beating my head against the wall trying to get something done. I was approaching record companies and they didn't want to have anything to do with what I was doin'. I had my manager book a weekend of bar gigs, starting in Cocoa Beach, Florida and ministered the first night until about 3 in the morning with Vision down there. People came to the Lord left and right. Husbands and wives crying, bikers...It was just an outpouring of the Spirit that night that just overcame everybody in the place. Everybody was touched. I believe everyone in that place got ministered to. First by the music and then personally afterwards. We were there until 3:30 in the morning ministering. I called my manager up and I said, 'Man, I got my ministry. Forget them record companies. Forget the PTL Club. Forget the 700 Club. Just book me in some more bars, 'cause this is where God really wants me.' That very same week there was five record companies that called and the 700 Club called on Thursday and wanted to come out and tape the show that we were doin' the following week in Norfolk, Virginia."

"See what happened when I got my hands off of it and said, 'Forget it man, this is it?' That was the confirmation. When you get your hands off and just trust in God...It might not seem like a bright sunny future, but until you get all your trust into God and let be...You gotta let go. It's hard, man. This flesh wants to do something, you know? It wants to jam up the works. Let go, let God."

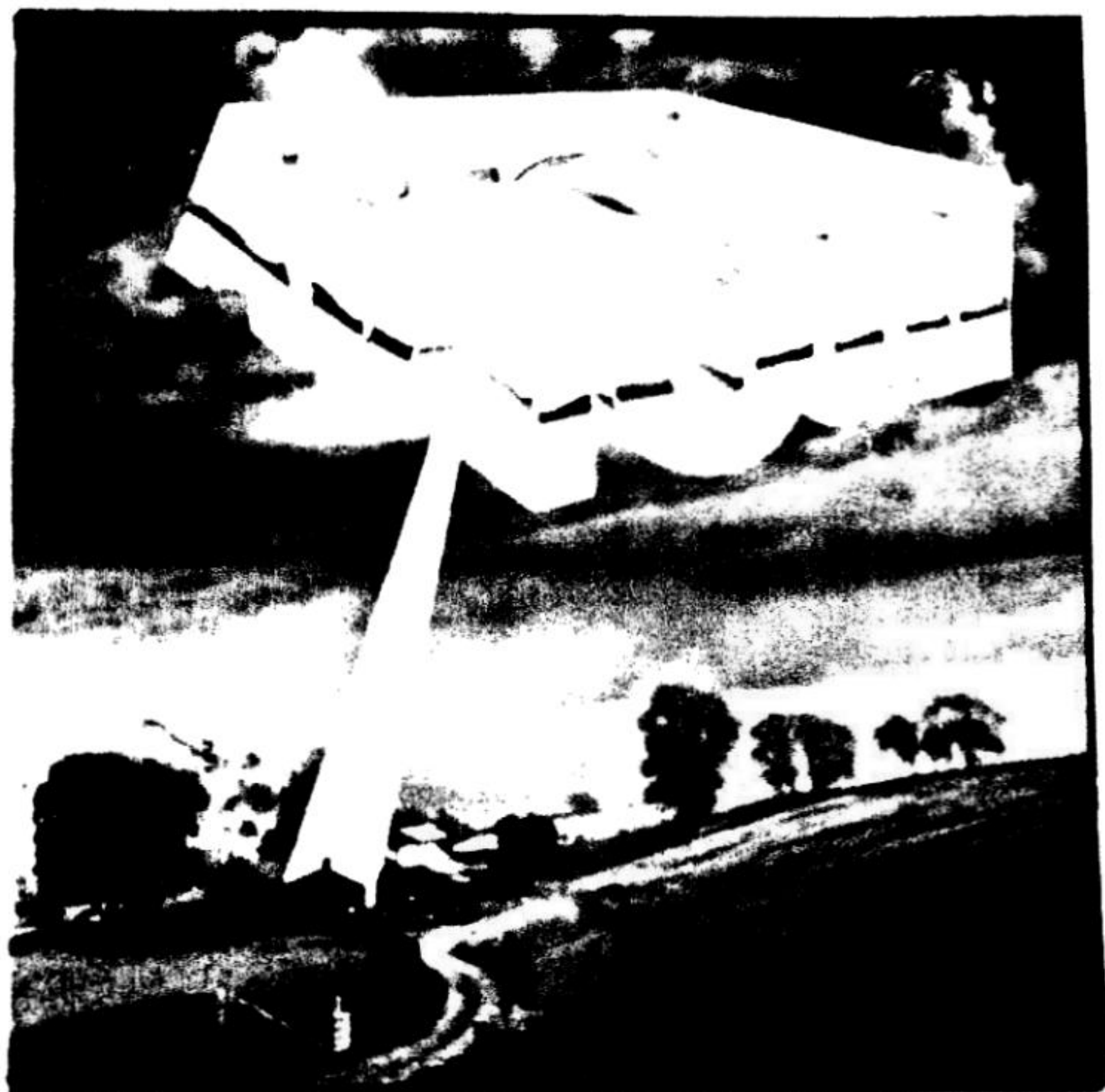
**Curtis: Do you all meet quite a few Christians on the road?

"Yes. Most every night there's a few people who come up and say, 'I was interceding tonight.' Thank you!! There's no distance in the spirit."

Mark Farner cont'd

We're not infallible by any means. Because we're a Christian band doesn't mean that we're all full up and don't need anymore."

If you'd like to write Mark Farner's Common Ground Ministry all for Jesus, write: Box 214-AA, Onaway MI 49765



Avion -- Avion on RCA Records
and
White Noise -- Avion on EMI Records

I've been meaning to review Avion's debut album, **Avion**, for a long time, but haven't had room. Now, with the release of their second album, and the room, here's the review. I'll do something different and give my conclusions first: **Avion** by Avion is a "must-buy," while **White Noise** is good, very good in fact, but isn't as necessary for Christian headbangers to own. It's a more pop-oriented rock in the Foreigner mold.

The first album is not a headbanger's delight either. It is, though, a very good, polished dish of hard rock. **I Need You**, the first track of the album, received good airplay on Southern California's KYMS during the summer of '84. I'm sure it got airplay elsewhere as well.

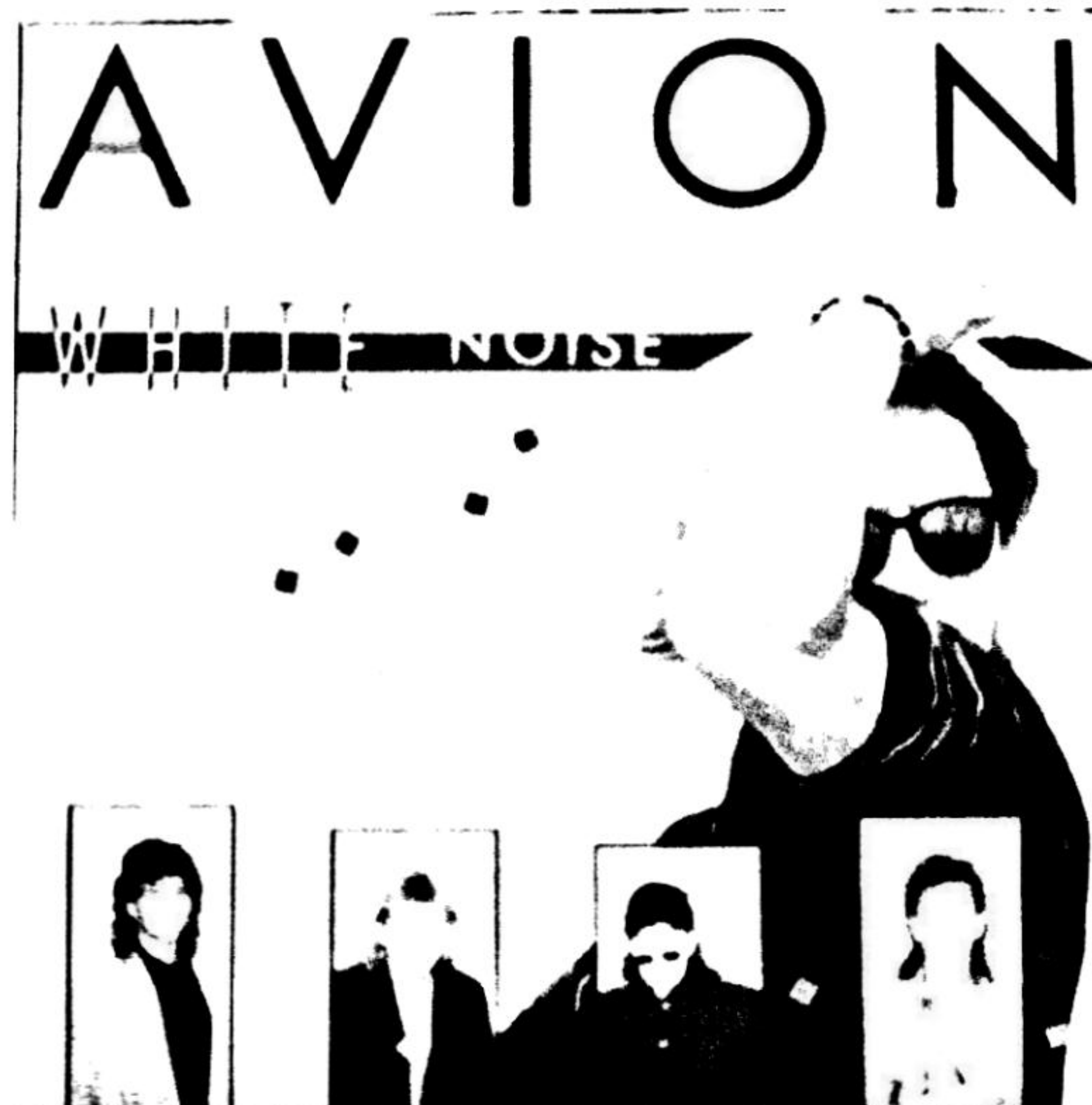
The overall polish of the album lets the listener know these guys are pros. Randall Waller, the leader and singer of Avion, does an exceptional job with his voice. If his name sounds familiar to you, it's because he released a solo album on Tunesmith years back, called **Midnight Fire**. Mellow rockers, like **Diamond Eyes**, **Warrior**, **Who's Crying Now** and the awesome ballad, **Always Waiting**, showcase this smooth voice, which is also reminiscent of Lou Gramm of Foreigner.

Never Let Me Go is a rocker that has some great

hooks and power chords mixed together well enough to get any air guitarist movin'. It's a great song lyrically, too! It pleas for Jesus to be faithful in His promise of the believer's security in Him (John 10:28). "Never let me go/ not even for a day/ Never let me go/ even though I'm far away."

Lady of the Night is a powerful rocker that puts to song the story of the woman caught in adultery that was brought to Jesus. It's a story that blasts those who would accuse, condemn and judge those caught in sin.

This album is a must for Christian rockers. It's probably out-of-print, but someone obviously has copies somewhere. You can probably order it from your local secular record store's catalog. You may come across it in a used record store as well. It's worth the try, believe me! [Released in 1983, RCA AFL 1-4570; 0-7863-54750-1]



White Noise was a long awaited release from this talented group, who seemed to disappear for a couple of years. As soon as I got a copy (it was an Australian pressing and sent by my friend and great brother Arthur Marsh--Didn't he do a great job writing the Jacob's Well article in the last issue?) I hurriedly put it on the turntable. I was overjoyed when the first song, **Celebration**, cut through the air with power and polished production. It punches! As I listened on, the only real disappointment was the tone of the lyrics, which seem to deal more with life on this planet rather than a blatant depiction of life in the Spirit. I'm not saying that this is bad, yet it did disappoint my spirit, which longs to worship God whenever possible. The lyrics are printed this time, though, which is a plus. After further study, it becomes apparant that Randall is expressing his life as a believer. I am impressed with his writing skills.

This album is more commercial and accessible to a wider audience than the first one, but less

appealing to today's headbanger. Avion seems to have moved into the eighties' rock scene, which U2 seems to be king of at the moment (Let's pray for U2, by the way. They are influencing a whole lot of people in a good way.) If you're looking for a well-mixed album, this is it. I tell ya, the secular record companies can afford to give their artists bucks to pay for great studios, engineers and producers. The producers here were Clive Shakespeare and Randall. **Celebration** gets loud at times, when Randall lets his voice out of the box.

The next song, **Berlin Wall**, is another mellow rocker that Randall does well at putting on vinyl. **In My Mind** and **Ships** also fit into this category, while **Ellie, We've Got Secrets** and **On and On** fit more into the pop, radio-airplay mold.

Ellie is a song that describes a guy caught in a relationship where a girl is in love with him, but he doesn't love her.

Ships is a lament over a relationship that doesn't seem to click. It's almost haunting with its subdued production and clouded mix of Randall's voice. Commendations go to either Randall or Paul Gannell for the melodic lead break in the middle of this song. (Randall plays guitar and sings, while Paul plays guitar and adds backup vocals.)

We've Got Secrets has a punch and a great hook in the chorus. It's a "Romeo and Juliet" type song with a "daddy doesn't approve" theme.

Calm Before the Storm is a rocker that has some very intelligent, evangelistically-bent apologetic lyrics. It seems to take a realistic look at humanism and slam it, as it deserves.

"They say we're all ascending/ And the trouble's just a phase/ Of evolution, it's all a delusion/ And I feel the truth they're bending/ As I look around I see/ No resolution, there's the solution/ What will we have to show for all of our trying?/ We'll blow it all in instant, no time for crying/ The time is now...The blind they lead the blind/ Yet they're laughing when we find/ Some kind of meaning, someone to believe in/ So we all believe in nothing/ And we wonder why our hearts are/ Always screaming, always dreaming/ We're watching as we pray, relentlessly hoping/ But we've got to change our hearts, the moments are going/ To fade away..."

On and On is a killer melodic tune that keeps in with the social issue theme continued from **Calm Before the Storm**: "We fight for life/ We stand for our rights/ While little silent lives/ Are taken before they breath/ before they have ever seen...On and on, on and on/ We stand so tall/ In pride we fall...When will we turn/ Why do we follow?/ When we will learn/ When will we swallow our pride?/ It's not too late/ To learn from our mistakes/ But will it just be words...on and on."

Never Too Late brings home the message that we can change before it is too late. "We live in a world of blind ambition/ Where empires rise and fall/ A place where the sculpture rules the sculptor/ And doves refuse their call/ But everything comes and goes in season/ As history changes course/ It's up to us to change our reasons/ For our wages and our wars...Cause it's never too late/ Too late to begin..."

Randall just excels in both departments: lyrically and musically.

The Next Big Thing, **Calm Before The Storm** and **Never Too Late** are the loudest rockers on this well-balanced album. **The Next Big Thing** is a humorous and all too realistic look at the very temporal world of making it big in the rock scene for a season and quickly falling and being replaced with the "next big thing." It's a different storyline, but very reminiscent of **Juke Box Hero** by Foreigner.

Randall's got a million dollar voice and a band that does a terrific job of backing him up. Look for some media attention for Avion in future. If they don't get it, it's certainly not because they don't deserve it.

White Noise will soon be released in the US, but may be available now through a resourceful import dealer. Give Larry Miller @ Kosher a shout.

Metal Tracks cont'd

Final Hour is a band out of the Bay Area, which will be interviewed in a future issue of Heaven's Metal. If you'd like to get the scoop yourself before you read about it, or just want to encourage the band, you can write Final Hour at: 409 Grove Ave, Hayward CA 94541.

Want a challenge? Try to find the following Christian metal import albums from Sweden: **Rock The World** by Charizma, plus their single: **Turn Me On; You Better Believe It** (single) by Lifeline; **It's You** by Simson; and **The Sanctuary** by Motherlode.

Confessions cont'd

of Kings. I glorify Him and not myself with music. My name isn't written in rock 'n' roll magazines, but it is written in what Jesus calls the "Lamb's Book of Life", and God has blessed me with a truly godly wife...And I guess I do say "Praise the Lord" quite a bit these days. After all, He is the Creator of the Universe.

This testimony is printed in the form of a tract, which Bloodgood passes out at their concerts, and you can order copies to use as witnessing tools. "That's what it was written for," says Jeff. "If I can help you in any way, please write." Jeff Nicholson, PO Box 1192, Bellflower CA 90706.

GOD RULES METAL

**IN JESUS NAME
PRODUCTIONS**



(201) 222-5774

Leave your prayer requests and ...



Detonation - Bloodgood on Frontline Records

Detonation by Bloodgood is the best album in Christian metal. Anybody wanna argue? I doubt it. This album is so good...Ow! It smokes!! The highlights are probably: the vocals; the guitar; the drumming; the bass; the songwriting; and the lyrics. I think you get the picture: this album does not fall short in any category.

This album literally breathes with power. The production on this album shows that the recording quality of Christian record labels is improving.

The album especially comes alive for me now that I've seen them live. Their brilliant performance of the songs live has left vivid impressions that I can see when I listen to the record. This band can stand up to Judas Priest, Scorpions, Metallica, anyone. They are one of the heavyweights of Christian metal. Well, metal period.

Battle Of The Flesh starts the album off, shredding your speakers with each note. We hear extra mixing not on the **Metal Missionaries** demo, like Mark Welling's ability to count to four. **Vagrant People** struts Bloodgood's original flair with the inclusion of the bass chorus of "Look to the past from which you've come/ Gaze in the fire eternal son/ Repulse the dark and evil one."

Self Destruction charges off with some snappy drumming and cowbell ringing. This is one of my favorites on the album. It's a very heavy and confrontational song for the unsaved. It's as "in-your-face" as any of the grime and sleaze that wordly bands emit. This message is filled with so much truth, it repulses evil and comes right against it.

Alone In Suicide is another standout song that is very clean and powerful. The emotion packed in it is slowly released as the tempo builds and

then lets loose. David and Les get extra special slaps on the back for this one.

Other highlights are the matching songs of **Crucify** and **The Messiah**. The live performance of **Crucify** is unforgettable. A strobe light kicks in as Les portrays Jesus. His persecution is dramatized as David viciously kicks Him when He's down. His body violently flies to the other side of the stage as Michael's foot lands Him on the other side of His ribs, and He flops back in David's direction for more punishment. It is a very vivid picture of the hate that manifested during Jesus' persecution. I believe Bloodgood is using art in its highest form: to glorify God.

I give up on saying any more on this album. I'll just trip over my tongue, which is hanging out in astonishment to the high quality of this record.

Other input may help here: Kosher, of One Bad Pig, said, "I think the number one and two best albums in Christian metal are **Detonation** and Bloodgood's debut album, respectively."

Bob Hopkins gives it a rating of 92 out of 100.

What I think we're all saying is, "If you don't get this album, you're crazy!!"

Metal Tracks cont'd

Andy Strauss has left **Messiah Prophet!** His departure, following Brian Nicarry's late last year, makes the second personnel change within the past year for Messiah Prophet. Andy's replacement on lead guitar is Mark Zimmeran. Brian's replacement on rhythm is Frank Caloiaro, who is now the lead spokesman for the band onstage.

Stryper has a gig with **Manowar** in England this month.

Concert Review: Damascus at I.C.C.

By Bert Crabbe

Note: This band is from PA, not to be confused with the other Damascus from IL with the tape **Will I Find You There?**

Recently, I had the pleasure of seeing Pennsylvania's Damascus in concert. They are definitely one of the best bands I've seen in a while. The songs they did ranged from rock to ballads. It was truly an enjoyable concert. Damascus is one of the few bands I've seen today with its own personality. This is due, mostly to the on-stage antics of their lead singer, Dan Armstrong. At one point in the concert, a song called for audience participation. At this point, Dan jumped down from the stage, and approached the person sitting right next to me, my friend Mike, and allowed him to sing into the mike. Then, he was brought up on stage...and was abandoned! Dan left him up there in front of the audience, not really knowing the words to the song. If only I could describe the expression on Mike's face.

My favorite song that they did is called **Saturday Morning Cartoons**. It is all about the media and how it turns the truth upside down. Musically, the song is fantastic. The chorus is set with three-part harmony. The three vocalists really sound great together. I do think, however, that better production on the tape could have improved it 200 times.

In conclusion, I will say that Damascus has a lot of talent, and their new album, **Caught in the Middle**, promises them a large following. They could use a little more hype, though. See them in concert if you get a chance.

Any questions or comments? Contact: Bert Crabbe, 81 College Ave. Staten Island, NY 10314

Concert Review: Roxalt, MISL and Paradox

Metal rocked Austin on May 20th when Roxalt, MISL and Paradox played at The Tab. This metal show packed in this small coffee house with 50-75 people.

Roxalt played first and blew my socks off. This band has found their identity. They have found their niche in metal and do extremely well at it. This identity is most evident in Keith Well's vocals. He seems to have found his place in rock. He no longer is trying to sound like anybody else, but is relaxing in his own bluesy style. He sounds quite a bit like David Lee "Ego" Roth in places. Keith even has his own stage personality now! He's running around and goofing off and making friends with the audience. You're hot Keith!

The most dramatic change in Roxalt is Ray Ronzoni's guitar. Formerly with San Antonio's

TNK, Ray makes his guitar scream and wail with precision. Roxalt is metal now, for sure. Ray did a solo that he made look so easy and sound just great. Roxalt has improved 1000% in the past year.

They are currently working on their first LP. Two singles from the album are available for \$3.50 from Lightspeed Productions. Also available are TNK's and Roxalt's original demos for \$5.50 each. All prices include postage. Write Lightspeed Productions, 2814 Lake Emerald. San Antonio TX 78222.

MISL took the stage approximately two minutes after Roxalt left and jumped headfirst into fast metal excitement. Greg Hayward, their lead guitarist, is one exciting guy to watch. He stands there confidently sliding his hands all over the neck and just picking like crazy. He's extremely fluid in his leads. He covers any mistakes (I don't remember any) with lots of flash. He spins the guitar up and over his back a la Yngwie in perfect step with the music. MISL rocks! This young band should really reach the local headbangers here...as well as elsewhere! They're playing in local clubs to predominantly heathen audiences! July third has them playing The Fifth Street Theater with a secular cover band.

Their address is: 1339 Neans Dr, Austin TX 78758.

Paradox came on last and had two tough acts to follow. They lived up to their top-billing, though. They tore it up with a mega-metal sound. Fernando Hernandez let his white Fender strat. with 12-inch vibrato bar (His 14-inch one broke). scream for itself. This band is hot. They've almost eliminated all the Christian cover tunes in favor of their hot originals.

The two songs they've put on tape, **Last Race** and **Don't You Know**, have been receiving airplay on San Antonio's KISS. This band really rocks. They are not the only band in the kingdom that rocks this hard, but if they had appeared on the scene five years ago, they would've blown people's minds. They're LOUD!

Their address is: 131 Wayside, San Antonio TX 78213

Ariel cont'd

The Second Coming ends the album with shouts of joy. The chorus is pure praise. It sounds like the perfect song to end a concert with right after some heavy preaching and a salvation prayer. It's anointed man!

Because of the edifying nature of the lyrics and the quality of the music, I would recommend that all of you buy this album.

It is being distributed through Spring Arbor in Michigan. That means you can special order it from your local Christian bookstore. If you don't live near a Christian bookstore, you can contact Spring Arbor yourself by writing: Spring Arbor Distributing, 10885 Textile Road. Belleville MI 48111; or calling (313) 481-6900.

DUAL EDGE



KNOCK EM ALIVE

DUAL EDGE
8140 HAMPSHIRE AVE. N.
BROOKLYN PARK, MN 55445

MASTERS TALENT
CONTACT JOEL at 612-571-3448
for BOOKING INFORMATION

FAN CLUB

INCLUDES:

- KNOCK EM ALIVE CASSETTE
 - FULL SIZE POSTER
 - BUMPER STICKER
 - NEWSLETTER - TOUR INFO.
- \$10.00

*BLOOD sacrifice

A blood sacrifice had to be made for you. It was absolutely necessary that blood be shed for your sake. You see, you're a sinner and your sin is just totally gross in God's eyes. That sin, which is literally just rebellion against God, has to be either punished or forgiven. There is no in-between. Without forgiveness you will receive punishment for your sin. Let me tell you, you desperately need forgiveness, because the punishment is hell!! (Literally and figuratively)

How do you get forgiveness? You have to earn it, right? **WRONG!** You get forgiveness when someone gives it to you. You can't take it. It has to be offered.

In the Old Testament times, the Jews were offered forgiveness of sins through God's blood sacrifice system. Once a year the high priest would enter the holiest part of the temple and offer a blood sacrifice to cover his sins and the sins of the people (Exodus 30:10 & Hebrews 9:7). This blood sacrifice was necessary. An innocent animal was slaughtered for this sacrifice. "Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22)

The act of forgiveness by God is a covenant between God and man. God is promising to forgive sin and to remember it no more (Jeremiah 31:33-34).

When Jesus shared His last supper with His disciples, which happened to be the annual Passover meal, He took the cup of wine after the meal and said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28) This special cup, which the Jews always drink after the Passover meal, is called "the cup of redemption." Jesus was telling His disciples that His blood was offering them redemption, which is the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7).

This covenant of forgiveness is a covenant, or promise, that will last forever (Hebrews 13:20). Since Jesus is God, His dying is the "once and for all" final sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10 & 9:12, 26).

This final and ultimate sacrifice has fulfilled God's part of your forgiveness covenant. It gives you, a wicked and dirty sinner, a cleansing. You can be made righteous. Even though you're guilty, you can be pronounced innocent and escape the punishment you deserve. You can be totally released from sin (Acts 20:28; Romans 5:9 and Revelation 1:5). Christ's death on the cross is the complete work that it takes to get you eternal life.

Now that you know forgiveness has been offered to you, are you gonna take it? To receive this forgiveness, ask God for it, just like you would ask anyone else for forgiveness: Say, "God, will you forgive me?"

God will say, "Yes."

Remember also that this forgiveness works similar to the way it does between two humans: If you hurt somebody and ask them to forgive you and they say, "Yes," you're not likely to try and hurt them again. When you ask God to forgive you, you're asking Him to forgive your sin, which is your state of rebellion against Him and His rulership over you. It won't be sincere forgiveness if you still plan on doing things your own way and ruling over yourself.

This is your chance for forgiveness. It's Jesus. Are you going to accept His offer? Please do so. If you don't, you have rejected your only hope, your only chance for forgiveness. It's Jesus.

"If we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins." (Hebrews 10:26) If you shut the door to Jesus, you've shut the only door available for forgiveness. The only way to avoid the wrath of God, which means eternal death, is Jesus.

Like to subscribe? Subscriptions to Heaven's Metal are \$6 for one year (6 issues). Overseas send \$8. **Want to order several copies to hand out at concerts, etc?** Place order prior to deadline (Next deadline is August 7th) and send 60 cents per issue (Minimum order = 10). **Want to advertise in Heaven's Metal?** Ad rates are: \$45 for full-page ad; \$30 for half-page; and \$23 for 1/3 page. Send all correspondence to: Doug Van Pelt, 902 Romeria Dr. # 107, Austin TX 78757.